



△ Opening the Road of Advance in the New Century

△ Father and Sons, Bulldozer Drivers

Korea

Today

12

Juche 90 (2001)

Opening the Road of Advance in the New Century

The first year of the new century is drawing to a close.

The Korean people proudly look back on a year in which they made great progress under the leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong IL of the Workers' Party of Korea.

This year he gave constant personal guidance to strike the road of advance in the new century. As a result, the country was further strengthened.

Leader Kim Jong IL gave personal guidance to different sectors of the national economy to boost growth.

He gave on-the-spot guidance to light-industry factories in Sinuiju, the border city, in January, the Kusong Machine-Tool Factory and the Thaechon Power Station in February, factories and enterprises in Hamhung city in April, land-rezoned Naedong Cooperative Farm in Kangryong County, South Hwanghae Province and Suwon Cooperative Farm in Pachon County, and the new Youth Goat Farm in Hamhung city in May, and land-realigned Ryujong Cooperative Farm in Thaechon County and Jaechon Cooperative Farm in Jaeryong County of South Hwanghae Province in July. During his guidance tours he encouraged people to achieve good results in their work and discussed plans for the future with workers and farmers.

At the Kusong Machine-Tool Factory he was greatly pleased with the workers' achievements in their work and gave thanks to them.

At the Thaechon Power Station he gained an

understanding of power generation there and instructed managers to normalize its operation at a high level.

The leader traveled the long and winding road to the Hamhung City Youth Goat Farm. He expressed his satisfaction with the large farm built over an immense tract of undulating land and showed how to develop it further. He also paid attention to the farmers' working and living conditions. Kim Jong IL also visited numerous fish farms, basic food processing factories, orchards and holiday resorts built in different places around the country for the improvement of the people's living standards.

At the Ryongdam Fish Farm he earnestly instructed managers to rapidly develop freshwater fish breeding to supply more fish to the people and gave tasks which serve as a guide in the development of the nation's fish breeding.

At the 40km-wide Kwail County Fruit Farm on the west coast of Korea he told workers that they should take good care of the orchards and produce more fruit for the people. At the Rongsupho bathing resort he took measures to enable more working people to enjoy pleasant days by the sea.

On the way home from his historic visit to the Russian Federation he visited the Ranam Mining Machine Complex and advised them on how to develop the factory. He also took time to give personal guidance to the newly-discovered and developed Ulim Falls and various other sectors.



**KPA Supreme Commander Kim Jong IL inspects KPA
unit No. 932. (January 1, Juche 90 (2001))**

The leader had no time to relieve the fatigue from his continued external activities; his resumed journey was destined to the July 6 Railway Plant, the Rahung Concrete Sleeper Factory and other enterprises in South Ham-gyong Province.

On returning from frontline inspection he visited Kim Chaek University of Technology, setting important tasks of education and showing deep trust in and warm care of the teaching staff and students.

Kim Jong IL believes in the People's Army as the main revolutionary force. During the course of the year he inspected KPA unit Nos. 932, 655, 884 and many other army units.

While inspecting KPA units he saw the training of soldiers and gave instructions on how to increase their combat capability. He looked round education rooms, bedrooms, mess

halls and farms and paid close attention to the soldiers' living conditions.

Praising the soldiers highly for their achievements in socialist construction, he instructed all the people of the country to emulate the revolutionary spirit of soldiers in order to build a powerful nation.





**Kim Jong IL gives personal guidance to the Poman Fishfoods
newly built by North Hwanghae Province.(July 11, Juche 90)**

All these activities demonstrate the great. Efforts Kim Jong IL has made this year to strengthen and enrich the country.

In May he inspected or guided one KPA unit, factory or farm every two days, greatly encouraging the Korean people in their efforts to build a strong and prosperous state.

Under his guidance, the superiority of socialism

was fully displayed in the revolution and construction and new momentum was given to the Korean people's endeavours to build a powerful state.

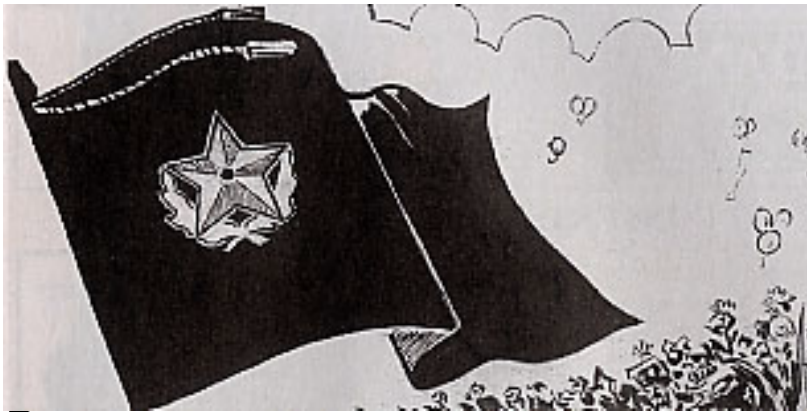
This year the Korean people have made great efforts for socialist construction under the leadership of KPA Supreme Commander Kim Jong IL They made the first year of the 21st century a significant one thanks to their tremendous achievements.

Kim IL Sin



**The leader visits the recently established Hamhung
City Youth Goat Farm. (May 24, Juche 90)**





SOMETIMES I see the flag of the supreme commander flying at the head of a Korean People's Army unit marching along in fine array. It is impressive to me. That was again the case one recent morning.

The sky was tinged with gold and red, and under it a KPA unit was passing, singing a song. Part of it reads, "Fly high the flag of the supreme commander at the head", and the soldiers were doing just that, the red flag fluttering with the star of the Marshal at its centre.

A flag is a piece of cloth or paper with a particular pattern and colour, used to symbolize an idea or a goal.

The flag of the KPA supreme commander carries the infinite loyalty and admiration of the servicemen and the people for Kim Jong IL, the Supreme Commander of the armed forces of the DPRK and the leader of the nation.

This December marks the tenth anniversary of his election as the supreme commander, adding significance to the flag.

The 19th plenary session of the 6th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on December 24, 1991, elected Kim Jong IL the supreme commander of the KPA, satisfying the unanimous desire of the nation.

Everyone now knows that Korea is in existence only because it is led by Supreme Commander Kim Jong IL.

"Our revolutionary cause is making headway as Kim Jong IL, son of Mt. Paektu, is guiding it. Former Soviet defence minister Dmitri Yajov was right when he said that the DPRK is winning victory after victory due to the leadership of Supreme

Commander Kim Jong IL, a man of strategy and courage." This was the view of the anti-Japanese

war veteran Kim Ik Hyon.

In retrospect, the 1990s were a difficult period for the Korean people.

In the early part of the decade, the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe collapsed, creating a situation in which the imperialists hailed the "end of socialism". The DPRK was seriously affected by these events.

Taking advantage of the situation, the US-led imperialist allied forces launched a big push to strangle the DPRK. The scheme reached its peak in 1993 when the US alleged that the DPRK was developing nuclear weapons under the cover of its nuclear power programme. This was the so-called 'nuclear issue'.

But the DPRK stood firm: it made the resolute decision to announce the nation's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. When the US created a climate of imminent war, Supreme Commander Kim Jong IL put the whole country on a semi-war footing, making it clear that those who made any infringement whatsoever on the DPRK would suffer devastating consequences. The US was cornered, as reported in world political circles and the press. It had no alternative but to begin peace talks with Korea. The result was the publication of a DPRK-US joint statement that assured the fair resolution of the nuclear issue, respect for each others sovereignty, no interference in each other's internal affairs and support for the proposed peaceful reunification of the north and the south of Korea.

In 1994 Korea suffered the greatest loss in the country's history: the demise of President Kim IL Sung. The nation was overwhelmed by grief, and the international community sent deep condolences. To make matters worse, Korea was hit by catastrophic floods. The country was faced with serious economic difficulties, and was forced to enter the time known as the "Arduous March".

This presented an opportunity for the US and other imperialist forces to kick off an intensified anti-DPRK campaign which had been subdued after the joint statement—internal disturbances had been expected. by the West due to what they called a "political vacuum

Whenever I See the Flag of the Supreme Commander

At this point, Kim Jong II warned them not to expect any change in his leadership, and inspired the army and the people to unite as one and fight their way through the difficulties together.

Faced with this situation, the US signed the DPRK-US Agreed Framework and US President Bill Clinton sent a letter of assurance regarding the implementation of the agreement.

Kim Jong IL adopted a new mode of policy of giving priority to military affairs. The policy means making the KPA the main driving force or pillar of the revolution and, on this basis, pushing ahead with the socialist cause as a whole. The policy gave birth to the spirit of defending the supreme leader at the risk of one's life, carrying through the tasks given by the leader and sacrificing oneself heroically. This is known as the revolutionary spirit of soldiers. It was seen in the so-called 'Kanggye spirit' in Jagang Province, which then spread across the whole country, bringing about colossal achievements.

The artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong I was successfully launched. The Anbyon Youth Power Station, the Youth Hero Motorway, the land realignment projects in Kangwon, North Phyongan and South Hwanghae provinces, and other gigantic construction works were completed or substantially progressed. Modern chicken and catfish farms were built to raise living standards.

Scientific and technological progress was made and the modernization of the national economy was promoted forcefully. The "Arduous March" came to a successful conclusion and the country is now engaged in building a powerful and prosperous state.

The KPA has become a reliable defender of peace, and an invincible army which is able to destroy any enemy.

The Korean people have defended socialism, the destiny of the nation.

Now I was reminded of a paragraph in the statement made by M.M. Burma, director of the India UN Research Centre, which says, "The DPRK's defence of socialism and building of the foundations for a powerful and prosperous country, even during its confrontation with the imperialist forces, means the victory of the army-centred politics practised by respected His Excellency Kim Jong IL."

The flag of the supreme commander is the symbol of Korea, which is advancing victoriously under the army-centred policy. The KPA and the Korean people will continue to uphold the flag in their efforts to achieve national prosperity and protect global peace and security.

Ki Kwang Chol

Gold Medals and Honorary Diplomas to President Kim Il Sung and Leader Kim Jong IL

The Institute for Fidelity in Work, based in France, recently presented gold medals and honorary diplomas to President Kim IL Sung and leader Kim Jong IL.

Chairman Patrick Brunot, who is also a member of the French society for the study of

the Juche idea, conveyed them to a Korean official on his visit to the DPRK.

Written on the honorary diploma to the President is the message "To President Kim IL Sung, who made a ceaselessly beneficial and devoted contribution over many years.

September 1, 2001".

At his meeting with the official, he said that his institute had also decided to present the gold medal and honorary diploma to leader Kim Jong IL for his immortal exploits in seeking the realization of the independent cause of humankind.

Rapidly Developing Science and Technology

On January 1, 2001, a joint editorial was published by the three major newspapers of the DPRK. The editorial called for the creation of an atmosphere which encourages the development of science and technology and produces a surge of technical innovation throughout society. Inspired by the appeal of the newspapers, Korean scientists and technicians are now filled with revolutionary enthusiasm and determination, and are now working harder than ever to attain their goals.

Fruits of Seed Revolution

Scientists are achieving excellent results by employing the seed theory put forward by the Workers' Party of Korea in their scientific research.

Researchers and technicians in the field of agriculture are concentrating their efforts on the successful solution of the seed problem in their attempts to rapidly increase agricultural production.

Joint research is being conducted with the rice, maize and vegetable research institutes as the main driving force. The work also involves close cooperation with scientists and technicians at branch research institutes and field research stations in every province. As a result, a bright vista has been opened up for the cultivation of new varieties.

Meanwhile, efforts to grow virus-free potatoes are being stepped up. Plans have been laid to start farming in Juche 91(2002) using seeds with immunity to viruses.

On the basis of the completion of the method of tissue culture, scientists have further stepped up their research, completing

the development of potato seed production systems and introducing appropriate farming methods in all areas of the country.

This has made it possible to do potato farming with new varieties in all areas of the country in the near future.

Good results have also been achieved in conducting research in various other fields, including double cropping.

Researchers at the Crop Farming Research Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science have made seed selection more scientific through research into the sensitivity of early-ripening varieties of rice to changes of light and temperature. This has enabled the farmers to do double cropping on a new basis. The Kye Ung Sang University of Agriculture in Sariwon has succeeded in identifying the influence of soil in paddy fields upon the absorption of nutrients by rice and upon its growth and yield.

Scientists and technicians at the Poultry Research Institute are making great progress in raising highly productive new species of ducks and producing an additive for feed which can be used widely in the sector of poultry breeding.

The Biological Branch of the

Academy of Sciences has made certain achievements in developing a method for rapidly increasing the number of domestic animals.

Flames of Technical Renovation

The technological upgrading of the national economy is one of the main tasks for this year. The aim is to consolidate the country's economic power in line with the demands of the new century.

Widespread technical innovation is now making a big impact. Factories and enterprises are being

modernized and new production centres based on ultramodern science and technology are under construction.

The September Textile Mill has introduced a number of valuable new technical devices and upgraded more than 30 spinning machines.

The Kusong Machine Tool Factory has made a great contribution to raising the standard of Korea's machine tools to world standard by successfully manufacturing a highly-sophisticated

multi-purpose machine tool. The technicians there have developed the rectilineal guide bearing, which is regarded as a link of key importance in this multi-purpose machine tool as it ensures the highest levels of accuracy in processing. They also succeeded in turning out on their own the ball screw,

product ion of which had previously been regarded as difficult.



**Researchers from the Academy of Agricultural Science
are intensifying research into new varieties of photo**

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex has solved a series of technical problems which had proved an obstacle to maintaining production at a steady rate. They are now vigorously pushing ahead with the work of technical innovation conducive to the modernization of production processes.

For instance, it has prevented gas leaks in the carbonization room and has raised the temperature of the coke oven through the introduction of an ingenious new device. It has also refashioned pressure equipment using a pneumatic braking device so that the driving-wheel of the turbine can be regenerated by its own efforts.

Scientists at the State Academy of Sciences conduct their research conscious of the fact that they are responsible for the development of the country's science and technology. As a result they have initiated hundreds of valuable technical innovations, including the automation of the circular layer boiler of Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.

In the first half of this year alone the country has made thousands of inventions and new devices.

New Achievements in Scientific Research

Many scientific and technological achievements have been registered in the course of the endeavours to build a prosperous, powerful country. These achievements have boosted the development of the economy and have helped to raise living standards.

The Biological Branch of the Academy of Sciences is



developing a new technique to accelerate the propagation of domestic animals.

Researchers at the Textile Research Institute of the Branch Academy of Light Industrial Science have succeeded in developing a new dyeing method which significantly reduces production costs in the textile industry.

The method does not require the high-pressure cauldron and drying process used to date, and results in a 50 to 60 per cent cut in the use of dye compared with the previously-used technique.

When dyeing cloth by this method, colours are deepened and the concentration of dye in the waste water is very low. This reduces the cost of treating the water. Through their research they have succeeded in producing bubble bath, stabilizer and additive with raw materials and reagents that are abundant in Korea. They have also developed a new type of bubble machine, thus producing an effect mentioned above.

Researchers in the public catering section of the

Commercial Science Research Institute have devised a new method of extracting with water the active components of mineral matter. The method is notable because of the presence of many microelements in the water and the role the water can play in food processing.

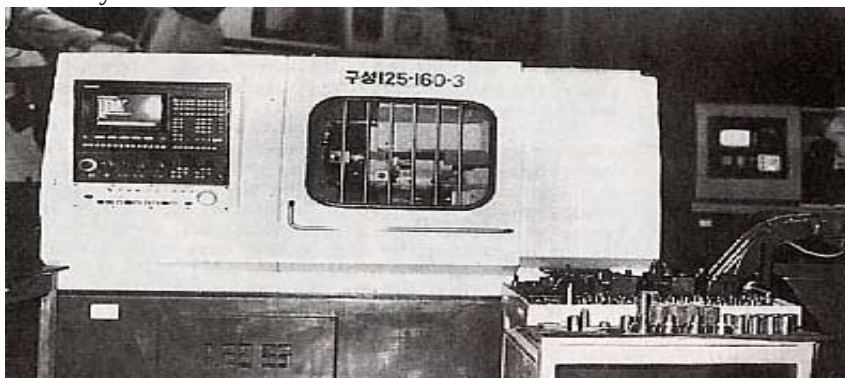
They call this water the 0.5 percent mineral water. It performs the function of changing the structure of starch, the primary component of potato.

When using this water, potato bread does not become hard even after two days. Potato noodles become much tougher and their taste is almost the same even if they are cooked at lunchtime and eaten in the evening.

Pyongyang City People's Hospital No.1 is registering good results in the treatment of patients after developing and introducing into clinical treatment an antibody which can detect infection from pylorus spirillum, the basic cause of gastric and duodenal ulcers, within a few hours.

It is the first time this diagnostic method has been used in the Korean medical system, and its accuracy rate is 98 per cent.

The Sosong District People's Hospital in Pyongyang is focussing public attention by successfully applying a newly-developed medicine to the treatment of idiopathic gangrene, one of the diseases hard to cure worldwide.



A multi-purpose lathe recently made by Scientists and technicians of the Kusong Machine Tool Factory

Away From Home

THE DPRK has no seasonal labour, yet there are workers who move from place to place. They do so not for subsistence but for the development of the nation.

The No.1 workteam of the third brigade of the Power Transmission Line Construction Company recently moved to another site after finishing the project of laying dedicated power lines for the modernized chicken farms in Pyongyang.

The task of building power transmission lines, large and small, across the country means they



cannot lead a settled life, though they have comfortable apartments (provided by the state) in Pyongyang. There are few people who want to live away from their family, but the sense of duty to the country weighs heavily on the workers, encouraging them to leave their loved ones behind and move from place to place.

Their lives are devoted to the collective effort to get the job done and maintain the harmony of their group in often trying circumstances.

Leader of the team Paek Ki Bok, 37, said that the most recent move was the twelfth in the last three years.

Paek said, "We sometimes blaze the trail through ancient forests, sometimes cross the rapids of rivers. Rain, snow, storms and blizzards are what welcome us season after season. Some lose courage halfway, overwhelmed by the difficulties. When that happens, the others do all they can to give them back their belief. The sight of the pylons and transmission lines we built with our efforts offers us unusual pride in our labour."

The team has so far worked on 40 projects.

The building of lines for the Anbyon Youth Power Station was the most difficult of the projects fulfilled in recent years. It was completed last year.

Their task was to erect pylons on steep cliffs. They had to crawl up precipitous rocky slopes on their hands and knees. A missed step could have led to a fall of several dozen metres. As the site was narrow and sloping, it was impossible to employ the use of vehicles, nor even helicopter. All materials and equipment had to be carried on their backs. Worse still, rain had been pouring down for days. It took several attempts for a worker to reach the site, but their tenacity was far stronger than the slipperiness of the slopes. The construction would go on until late at night. Under such difficult conditions, their comradeship grew, helping and leading one another forward.

The youngest member of the team, Myong Guk, 18, wrote a letter to his mother, saying, "Mom, I am now enjoying care as good as yours. The seniors give me any surplus balls of rice so I won't go hungry, and provide a new pair of shoes when they often wear worn-out ones. I sometimes fall down, yet rise again supported by the loving care of my seniors. They are like blood brothers to me."

The united efforts of the group has always achieved the timely completion of their tasks, no matter how difficult they were. The team was gradually acclaimed as a model for the company.

Their successful work at various projects of national importance was deeply appreciated by leader Kim Jong Il, demonstrated in his many letters of congratulations and messages of thanks to the company.

After work, they usually conduct recreational activities, some playing musical instruments, some writing poems, others drawing pictures.

Two or three evenings every week are used for technical lessons. Most of the team are between 20 and 35, 50 they have a strong desire for education. Some go to university with the goal of helping to modernize the construction of power lines.

The homes in Pyongyang are what they miss most. Messengers from the company often take letters to and from their families, and on some national holidays wives and children visit them, putting on songs and dances for them.

The workteam has produced two Labour Heroes and many Merited Electricity Workers.



Team advisor Kim Yong Thae is one of the two heroes, and the recipient of the Order of Kim Il Sung. The 65-year-old works admirably as an instructor. His son Kim Myong Chan is also a member of the team.

Kim Ji Sik, 51, said, "We are all of the mind to become cornerstones of the rich and strong country to be built, just like the foundation of the pylons."

This is the spirit with which the builders of the power transmission lines work to increase the wealth of the nation, whether they are recognized for their achievements or not. For that reason, President Kim Il Sung called them "unassuming heroes" many years ago.

Song Yong Hui



Unified Planning of Land Development Focuses on Environmental Protection

THE Land Development Planning Institute is located in Tongdaewon District in east Pyongyang. Korea Today recently interviewed key personnel at the institute:

Han Yong Dok, deputy director of research; Choe Chang Bok, manager of environmental protection planning; and Pak Jae Guk, a researcher from the nature transformation planning section No.1.

Reporter: Your institute received a congratulatory letter from the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the institute. That's a reflection of the fact that the work of land development planning is very important, I think. Could you tell me more about the establishment, organization and mission of your institute?

Han: The institute was opened on May 15, Juche 50 (1961). President Kim Il Sung regarded land management as one of the nation's major concerns for the creation of everlasting national treasures and achieving prosperity. He stressed the need to unify the planning of land development and ensure the coordinated management of land. The President saw that the National Land Development Planning Centre, the original name of our institute, was established.

The planning is aimed at formulating a coherent strategy

for harnessing fields, forests, streams and rivers, the coast and territorial waters; distributing railways, roads, cities, villages, factories and enterprises; developing resources and maintaining environmental standards. Our institute, in line with the state policy of land development, is geared to obtaining comprehensive information on the nation's land and natural resources and, on that basis, drawing up a general plan for land development. Our work helps to ensure the effective use of land and natural resources for economic progress and improvement of the people's standard of living. We also aim to prevent the destruction of the environment and give a facelift to the land of the country at large.

The institute is divided into sections: general planning; production planning oriented to the distribution of the industrial enterprises; network planning for ports, railways, roads, communications; nature

transformation planning for forestry, land, tideland, coast, territorial waters, fishery, hydropower generating, water service, rivers and streams; urbanization and tourism planning for population growth, city distribution, rest and recuperation homes, tourist resorts; environmental protection planning for water, the atmosphere, ecology, and afforestation; geographical information for land development planning methodology and study of geographical information systems; publications; and information services. There's also a land development planning office in each province. Our institute has over 20 holders of academic degrees and titles.

Reporter: I'd like to hear about the achievements you have made so far.

Han: The planning of land development is divided into planning for immediate projects and planning for the long term.

The latter is related with the overall



Deputy Director Han Yong Dok, Section Chief Choe Chang Bok and researcher Pak Jae Guk

direction of policy. The institute made a general plan of national land development in accordance with the policy and targets put forward at the 6th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, in October Juche 69 (1980). We made a visual model of the plan with a scale of 1: 100,000. President Kim Il Sung saw the model and praised it highly in October Juche 72(1983). Leader Kim Jong Il also sent us thanks for the model in July the following year.

Within the framework of the general plan, provinces make their own plans. The general plan is adjusted once every ten years to reflect the actual conditions of the time. On August 25, Juche 88(1999) we reported an updated general plan to Kim Jong Il.

Examples of the plans for immediate development are the one for the special economic and trade zone of Rason city, the plans for developing Kuwol and Chilbo mountains, the plan for the laying of a waterway from Kaechon to Lake Thaesong, and the plan for development of the Pyongyang-Nampho area.

The close concern of the state ensures unified planning, which protects land and natural resources from random and spontaneous development, and the environment from pollution.

Reporter: Environmental protection is an important part of your planning, I assume.

Choe: It is not only an important part, it is the final end of our planning. Good planning and thorough execution are a sure way of checking environmental pollution and destruction. Therefore, although calculation of possible business interest and rationality in land development planning is a

primary consideration, the focus always lies on the environmental impact. My section is currently preparing a plan to protect the environment of the Taedong River basin which will facilitate further improvement of the area. Researchers are busy collecting base materials for the planning. They have to know the actual state of affairs at factories in the river basin. One thing I'd like to mention here is that the policy is to remove existing factories which harm the environment. For example, we have dismantled the Nampho Refinery in the project to restructure the city of Nampho as part of the Pyongyang-Nampho area development plan.

Researchers also have to obtain information about new factories to be built under the long-term national economic plan, the requirements of the ecological environment in urban areas in the basin, afforestation and conservation work needed to prevent floods, and so on.

Reporter: Creation of forest is of paramount importance in this respect, isn't it?

Pak: You're right. We have made a detailed plan for afforestation and are pushing ahead with it. There was a great response to the spring and autumn tree-planting campaigns this year. It is intended to plant 6,000 to 10,000 hectares of forest every year in each province on average. In the long run, twomil-lion hectares of forest will be created across the country.

Han: We are now making a general plan for Pyongyang's development with the focus on environmental protection. We will continue to conduct our work at a high standard and in line with the realities. The

institute will give substantial support to the nation's effort for land development.

Reporter: Thank You.

Rason International Communication Centre Inaugurate

The Rason International Communications Centre was inaugurated on August 25 in Rason city.

The centre provides comprehensive communications services, including international, suburban and city voice and data communications, as well as various other services and training.

It will help to meet the increasing demand for telecommunications in Rason, a cargo transit area. It is also expected to assist in the mutual development of the economies of the nations in the northeast Asian region and further strengthen cooperation in the communications field.

National Youth Scientific & Technological Exhibition

The National Youth Scientific and Technological Exhibition was held at the Three-Revolution Exhibition in Pyongyang to mark Youth Day (August 28).

More than 8,700 inventions, technical innovations and initiatives, and data of 5,570 kinds were displayed, including 350 IT products. The exhibits were some of the achievements made in the work of modernizing and computerizing the national economy carried out by Youth League organizations and young people across the nation, true to the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of giving priority to science.

Our Society Is One Big Family

Every family is a firm unit which maintains close ties of kinship in its social relations.

For the whole of society to form a large family means that relations between all people become relations of familial love, like those between parents and their children and between brothers and sisters, going beyond the limits of a family.

Every family has its own traditions and every society has its own prevailing tendencies and features.

The features of Korean society lie in the fact that before anything else, all people hold leader Kim Jong IL in high esteem as their father and follow him.

Everyone in our country is fond of singing the song "We Have Waited for You". Contained in the song are the following lines:

Will he come today, our father?

Will he come tomorrow, Comrade Kim Jong IL?

They demonstrate the longing of all our people for leader Kim Jong IL from the bottom of their hearts, whether they are full of joy or in difficulty.

Further examples can be seen in the letters between the leader and his people.

Among them are letters from anti-Japanese war veterans, the first generation of the Korean revolution, burning with the determination to remain loyal to him, letters from the workers at the Chollima Steel Complex, which is famous as the birthplace of Chollima (a legendary steed that can cover a thousand ri a day, and the term has been used to symbolize rapid progress), and a letter from such intellectuals as the members of the Workers' Party of Korea belonging to cell No.2 of bureau No.5 of the Korean Central News Agency.

Also demonstrating this loyalty is a letter from Pak Yong Chol and his seven younger brothers, who are all officers of the Korean People's Army. They are determined to become eight guns and eight

human bombs protecting Supreme Commander Kim Jong IL at the risk of their lives.

Other letters come from boys and girls as young as pupil Ku Song Guk at Pyongyang Janggyong Primary School.

Whenever he receives letters, Kim Jong IL sends appreciative, tender replies which run, "I say assuredly that I will strive harder and be infinitely loyal to the Party and the revolutionary cause without falling short of the expectations of you Party members", "Congratulations! I want you to become an admirable pupil."

One of the features of our society is the fact that all the people share the sweets and bitters, helping and leading one another forward.

This comradely relationship is stronger than ever before.

Such warm comradeship as saving one's colleagues from death by giving one's own life unhesitatingly, or offering one's skin for a comrade close to death is now commonplace in the DPRK.

KPA officer Kim Kwang Chol rescued the soldiers of his platoon by covering a handgrenade with his body just before it exploded. Farmer Pang Yong Bok at the Township Cooperative Farm, Thaecheon County, dedicated herself to a small child who was drowning in the rapids of a local river. Medical workers at Anju City People's Hospital offered 280 pieces of their own skin to save a patient who was badly burned. Teacher Jang Kwan Sun at Suung Primary School in Sijung County, Jagang Province, carried a crippled school-age child on her back every day for several years in order to give him an education.

The relationship between the army and the people is being further consolidated. This is another notable feature of our society. This relationship is very important in achieving social harmony and unity. There is nothing to be afraid of when the army and the people are united with each other.

The WPK put forward the idea of army-people unity a long time ago.

It is based on the idea of mutual faith between the people

and the army, encouraging the people to assist the army with all sincerity. The result is the defence and advance of the country and the revolution by their united efforts. This policy has been carried through consistently by the WPK. As a result, a close bond exists between the army and the people.

The army-centred politics has been established in our society. It involves regarding the KPA as the main force and the pillar of the revolution and solving all problems by relying on and giving priority to it.

Accordingly, the revolutionary spirit of soldiers—the spirit of guarding the leader with one's very life, the spirit of unconditionally implementing the Party policies, the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude is being displayed throughout society.

Our armed forces are now taking the lead in performing the difficult and arduous tasks involved in building a rich and powerful country, including the construction of the Anbyon Youth Power Station, with the steely resolve to take both national defence and socialist construction upon themselves. Meanwhile, the population are giving full support to them with the feelings of brotherhood. They spare nothing in doing work connected with military affairs.

Due to this relationship, Korean society has become one big family. This is entirely because our people are led by leader Kim Jong IL.

It is a self-evident truth that just as the customs of a family rest with its parents, so the characteristics of a nation are decided by its leader.

Kim Jong IL practices benevolent politics, with "The people are my god" as his maxim.

The noble, laudable traits currently being displayed among the Korean people are based on Korean-style socialism and are clear

(Continued on Page 16)

From Kim IL Sung's Reminiscences "With the Century"
With My Comrades-in-Arms of the
Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army

(Continued from the previous issue)

The great leader parted with Zhou Bao-zhong at a new turning-point in our history, when the anti-Japanese revolution emerged victorious and the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists was abolished. Nevertheless~ fellowship and visits full of militant friendship continued between the two in later years.

In recollecting how his intimate friendship with Zhou Bao-zhong continued after liberation~ the respected leader Comrade Kim IL Sung said:

After liberation I met Zhou Bao-zhong on several occasions, twice in our country and for the last time in Beijing.

Zhou paid his first visit to our country in the early spring of 1946. I met him in Namyang. At that time he was fighting against the Kuomintang reactionaries as deputy commander-in-chief of the Northeast Democratic Allied Army (NDAA) and commander of the Jilin-Liaoning military district.

As Jiang Jie-shi, in his opposition to the communists, attacked the liberated area by mobilizing all the troops of the Kuomintang army, the mainland of China was again drawn into the vortex of a civil war. Saying that the situation in Northeast China was very critical, Zhou explained to me the balance of power between friend and foe as well as the military and political situation.

After the Japanese imperialists were forced out, there was a political vacuum in Manchuria for some time. Jiang Jie-shi's Kuomintang and the CPC waged a fierce struggle to control this area. Both of them regarded Manchuria as a pivotal region for the seizure of the whole of Chinese territory.

The newly-formed NDAA had to fight hard against a formidable enemy as the Kuomintang~ with the active backing of the United States, hurled hundreds of thousands of troops by sea, air and land into Manchuria.

Zhou Bao-zhong wanted to meet me in order to request urgent assistance to cope with this situation. It was also around that time that Mao Ze-dong sent

Chen Yun to Pyongyang to request our support. Chen had for some time been chief of the organization department of the Central Committee of the CPC, and had then been appointed deputy secretary of its Northeast Bureau.

I readily promised Zhou Bao-zhong that we would help solve all the problems raised by our Chinese comrades-in-arms with regard to the operations to be conducted in Northeast China, and render them the utmost assistance. Actually, our situation in those days did not enable us to extend help to others. Nevertheless, we did not take our conditions into consideration at all. From the point of view of our revolution, too, we could not tolerate Northeast China falling under the rule of Jiang Jie-shi.

In those days some 250,000 young Koreans were directly taking part in the battles to liberate Northeast China. Among them were Kang Kon, Pak Rak Kwon and Choe Kwang, the finest military and political cadres of the anti-Japanese guerrilla army.

Wang Yi-zhi also visited our country on a number of occasions bringing Zhou Bao-zhong's requests concerning the operations to liberate Northeast China. Her first visit was either in the summer or autumn of 1946. At that time the NDAA unit of the Liaodong military district led by Xiao Hua attacked Anshan and Haicheng. Simultaneously with this attack, a unit of the Kuomintang army stationed in these areas rose in revolt.

Greatly startled at the news, Jiang Jie-shi launched a violent offensive, threatening to annihilate the unit unless it capitulated. The unit retreated to the border between Korea and China. However, they could not move farther because the Amnok River blocked their way.

Zhou Bao-zhong sent Chinese representatives to our country one after another to discuss the measures to rescue the rebel unit.

Wang Yi-zhi also visited Ranam as one of those representatives. In the end, we allowed the unit to enter eastern Manchuria via our territory.

It was in early 1947 that I met Wang Yi-zhi in Pyongyang. On behalf of Zhou Bao-zhong, she first thanked me for helping them in various ways in the operations to liberate Northeast China. Then she said, "We have to evacuate wounded soldiers, families of soldiers and service personnel numbering over 20,000, as well as strategic materials amounting to 20,000 tons, to a safe place. To this end, we again request passage through Korean territory. We need your help, General Kim."

I readily complied with her request, and saw that relevant measures were taken immediately. Wang Yi-zhi repeatedly expressed her gratitude, saying, "All the people in Northeast China will remember your favour, General Kim."

The same day I asked Wang Yi-zhi whether she still had with her the watch Rim Chun Chu had given her as a souvenir when we parted with her in the Far East region. She said with a smile that she had given it to a man from the Soviet Union.

I could not understand why she had given away the watch she had called a symbol of friendship between Korea and China, and which she had said she would wear until her dying day.

As a matter of fact, the watch was Rim Chun Chu's favourite. The day we were leaving the training base, Zhou Bao-zhong and Wang Yi-zhi did not let us go easily, expressing deep regret at our parting. That was when Rim Chun Chu gave his wristwatch to Wang Yi-zhi. At first, she was unwilling to take it, as in those days a watch was a rare treasure. I told her to take the watch, saying it would prove its worth some time in the future. Only then did Wang accept the watch.

She related how they had seized the Changchun radio station after the liberation of the city, and that she had been in charge of broadcasting and had also taken part in the transportation of weapons from time to time. She added that the watch had been of great help to her. According to her, when they were engaged in the transportation of weapons, a motor transport convoy of the Soviet army had given them a great deal of help. She said she had given the watch to the leader of the transport convoy as a souvenir.

Wang Yi-zhi said the watch had, in the final

analysis, become a symbol of the militant friendship between the peoples of China, Korea and the Soviet Union.

At that time we did not let her return straightaway to Northeast China, but got her to rest for some time because she was not in good health. During her stay in Korea, she toured Moran Hill and some other places in Pyongyang.

In later days, too, Wang Yi-zhi came to Pyongyang to solve the difficult problems in the transport of strategic materials. Wang Xiao-ming and Peng Shi-lu were also staying in Pyongyang around that time. The three of them enjoyed a touching reunion as comrades-in-arms from the days of the IAF.

I think it was probably in the summer of 1947 that Zhou Bao-zhong sent Wang Yi-zhi to me again. The NDAA had killed or wounded 80,000 enemy soldiers and liberated 42 cities and towns in battles that lasted for 50 days. However, the situation at the front was still tense at that time. The officers and men of the democratic allied army had great difficulty because of a shortage of shoes. Wang said that a large number of the officers and men were marching barefoot through mud and gravelly places. She came to see me in order to solve the problem of shoes.

I gave an emergency order to all the shoe factories to discontinue the production of other shoes but make only those to be sent to our Chinese comrades-in-arms.

According to Chinese information on the operations to liberate Northeast China, our country carried, for the NDAA, materials amounting to 210,000 tons in the first seven months of Juche 36 (1947) and in the following year it transported 300,900 tons of materials.

A total of 16 NDAA units passed through Korean territory in the latter half of, Juche 35 (1946), and the number of NDAA personnel who went to the base in Northeast China via Korea during the first nine months of Juche 36(1947) amounted to more than 10,000. Nearly 9,000 people crossed the Tuman River via a bridge at Namyang in Juche 37 (1948) to go to Northeast China. Moreover, a number of representatives of Chinese democratic parties, non-party representatives and those of overseas Chinese went to Harbin via Korea to take part in the new political consultative conference. It is said that the number of cadres of the CPC who passed through Korea on business was even higher.

In the autumn of 1948, immediately after the liberation of Northeast China, Zhou Bao-zhong visited our country again in the capacity of chairman of the Jilin provincial government and concurrently deputy commander-in-chief of the Northeast China military district, accompanied by Wang Yi-zhi and his daughter Zhou Wei. He paid that visit to express his gratitude to us for offering material and moral aid to them in the operations to liberate Northeast China. The large amount of flour Zhou brought with him by train at that time was part of the expression of his thanks.

I sent Zhou and his wife to Mt. Kumgang, with Kim Chaek as a guide and companion. The couple enjoyed themselves at the hot spring rest home in the mountains for some time. Upon their return from Mt. Kumgang, they expressed their delight and admiration at the autumnal tints.

Upon their return to Pyongyang, still accompanied by Kim Chaek, they visited Mangyongdae as well as the graves of my father and mother.

After that, Kim Jong Suk and I took them to visit An Kil's grave and posed with them for a souvenir photograph.

Even now, when I recollect Zhou Bao-zhong, I look back upon what happened once during the second stage of the Fatherland Liberation War. This took place when we started our temporary retreat.

One day two strange young men came to see me and gave me a letter from Zhou Bao-zhong. They were Koreans named Hyon Ju Yong and Kim Kil Ryong. They had been working as Zhou's aide and driver, respectively, since the time he took command of the operations to liberate Northeast China. Zhou had taken them with him when he was moved to the post of vice-chairman of the Yunnan provincial government. They said that at the news of the People's Army retreating, Zhou had urged them to go to Korea without delay.

In his letter, Zhou Bao-zhong wrote that although he was far away, he was always in a Korean trench in his mind and that he entrusted to me two young men, who were intelligent and had a high sense of responsibility. Zhou's letter really gave me great strength at a time when the country was

undergoing a severe trial.

Friendship between revolutionary comrades is just like this. The militant friendship and comradeship we showed each other with pure hearts in Jiandao and northern Manchuria, as well as at the training base in the Far East region, could not change no matter how much time passed.

Love for comrades-in-arms is rock-solid. This is because it has been cultivated amid gun smoke and because it encourages people even to plunge into fire and sacrifice their lives for the sake of their comrades.

Being loyal to his obligations is really noble for a man. Because of loyalty man becomes a noble being, and because of faithfulness human life becomes as beautiful as a flower garden.

I met Zhou Bao-zhong for the last time during my visit to China in December 1954. At that time he was recuperating in the Jieshou Hall in the Summer Palace, because his chronic heart disease had become worse. He said Premier Zhou En-lai had ensured that he was brought to Beijing and given medical treatment there.

Upon seeing me, Zhou embraced me with tear-filled eyes. That iron man shed tears continually on that day. His mind seemed to have become very feeble, probably because he was bedridden. Nevertheless, he first inquired after my health and said that I must have had a very hard time during the three years of war.

Zhou did not discontinue literary work even on his sickbed, and left behind him a thick book entitled *The Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Warfare in Northeast China and the Anti-Japanese Allied Army*. He passed away in February 1964 after a prolonged illness, ten years after our meeting in the Summer Palace.

On the day when I sent a telegram of condolence, I could not bring myself to work. Unable to do anything, I recollected Zhou Bao-zhong pacing up and down my office.

(To be continued)

From Chapter 23 "In Alliance With the International Anti-Imperialist Forces," Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution"

Daughter of the people

Taking up the Handle of a Flail

One day soon after the country's liberation (August 15, 1945), anti-Japanese heroine Kim Jong Suk visited a farming village. Looking around it, she stopped in front of a farmhouse from where the sound of threshing could be heard. It brought back memories to her. Entering the farmhouse, she found farmer and his wife threshing beans in the yard.

She explained that she had come to see threshing, and exchanged warm greetings with the couple. Then she took a handful of beans and said, full of emotion: 'Whenever we harvested beans at the guerrilla base, we pictured in our minds the day when we would live happily back in the homeland, sowing seeds and gathering crops. Our dearest wish has now been realized.'

She stepped on the thoemaru (the floor of a Korean verandah) to pick up a flail that was placed against the outer wall of the farmhouse and then returned to the yard. The couple held her back from threshing, saying that an important person like her should not do that kind of work. Smiling benignly, she said, "I am also the daughter of a farmer. I was born into a peasant family and grew up doing farm work." The couple were moved with admiration as she skilfully undertook the threshing.

Our Ok Sun

While Kim Jong Suk was active at Taoquanli under the assumed name of Ok Sun during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, an event took place which

demonstrated her devotion to the people.

The landlord in the village carried a young girl farmhand suffering from an infectious disease to a distant mountain and left her in a straw-thatched cottage there. None of the villagers considered looking after the pitiable girl, because her infection might imperil their own lives. On learning what had happened, Kim Jong Suk went to the cottage without hesitation and, living under the same roof, took care of the girl.

Members of the underground organization pleaded with her, saying, "How can you carry out the task given by the headquarters if you lose your life, infected with disease while tending someone whose life has been given up on by the community? We want you to stop living with the girl, even if you continue to look after her." Hearing this, she said to them, "How can we regain our country and rescue the people if we fail to save a child from death, believing our own lives to be too precious? I have nothing to be afraid of, because my life is dedicated to the rescue of the people."

Her devotion enabled the girl to recover.

Kim Jong Suk loved the people so ardently that she would make any sacrifice for their sake. Small wonder that the people at Taoquanli thought of her as their daughter, sister or elder sister, an indispensable part of their lives, calling her "Our Ok Sun".

A Rickshaw Sent Back

One day after the country's

liberation Kim Jong Suk felt ill. She went outside and set off on foot, refusing to use the precious gasoline of the country even when going to hospital.

An official hurried after her, taking an old rickshaw-man with him.

She remained silent for a while, looking at the official who had appeared unexpectedly with the rickshaw. She then rebuked him, saying, "We fought on, eating the grass roots we dug up and sleeping on the snow. We didn't do that because we wanted to win favours for ourselves, riding in rickshaws after the country's liberation. You should not try to give somebody a lift in a rickshaw; you should struggle to eliminate the inequality of a situation where a person pulls a vehicle on which another person rides."

Laying her hand on one side of the front carrying-pole taken up by the rickshaw-man, she said to him, "In the past you were unable to make a living unless you pulled a rickshaw. But things are different today. I want you to live a worthwhile life, working at a factory as one of the masters of a new Korea."

Shedding tears, the old man told her that he would abandon this life as a rickshaw-man and go to a construction site to work. Then he asked her to comply with his earnest request, saying, "In the past I could only pull a rickshaw, carrying those who were well off. Today I should like to pull my rickshaw for the last time, carrying you on it."

But Kim Jong Suk sent him back and continued on foot.



One recently-coined term in Korea is unconverted long-term prisoner. It is almost a pronoun for a man of faith and will, a man to respect and revere. But from what background does such a man emerge? The following story about Choe Ha Jong is typical.

At the crossroads

August 15, Juche 34 (1945) marked the day of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule. Korean refugees in foreign countries, overwhelmed with excitement, were making hectic preparations for the return to their homeland. Choe Ha Jong, however, in his final year at Harbin College of Technology, China, was in a growing state of distress. Born into a rich family, the first son of the leading family of his clan, he had been receiving a higher education when many of his young compatriots had been fighting to regain the lost country. His mind was in turmoil as he faced the new situation.

During this unsettling period, his uncle, who had studied at the Manchukuo military academy which had been patronized by imperialist Japan, came to see him. He said, "Even if we return to our native place in the north of Korea, they will hardly welcome us capitalist family members. How about

going to south Korea with me, Ha Jong? Let us join hands to honour our clan, you as a famous scientist and me as a military officer in the south."

Ha Jong thought long and hard. He decided not to follow his uncle's advice. As the days went by, the memories of his home village attracted him more and more. Moreover, the news from the homeland inspired him to return to the north and devote what little he had to the nation-building effort.

One spring day the year after national liberation, he at last returned to Songjin (now Kim Chaek city), North Hamgyong Province.

Whole-hearted devotion

While Choe was leading a section of the state planning commission, his colleagues used to refer to him as "enthusiastic man" "burning heart", "official with a high sense of responsibility", and "man of versatile ability". As the titles suggest, he was always responsible for his work, star-like on stage and sportsmanlike in competition. But his cheerful and enthusiastic disposition began to fade, and his appearance betrayed anxious meditation. Nobody knew why. Recalling that time, Choe said in his memoirs, "Now that I had my own children, I began to feel remorseful for my indulgence in my own happiness. The American forces had occupied half of my homeland and had been seeking a chance to swallow the other half. How could I be relaxed with my life? Only a ceasefire existed, not peace. We could not hand a divided country over to our

Choe Ha Jong,

A Man of Faith and Will

children. It was my duty to work for reunification. My resolution hardened."

The evening before he left home, Choe looked back on the days he had spent in the homeland.

On his return from China he had been appointed as an official of the provincial democratic youth league committee, to his surprise and delight. The following days and nights had been devoted to the building of a new country together with young people. The leaders of the youth league committee recognized his desire to further his education and sent him to Kim Il Sung University. With the outbreak of the Korean war in June 1950, he had immediately joined the Korean People's Army. He fought against the US invaders until the war came to an end in July 1953.

One event stood out in his memories of his time in the DPRK. The day he had been admitted into the Workers' Party of Korea while working in Chongjin, the provincial capital, he had gone to share his honour and happiness with his parents and brothers. His father had congratulated him and taken out his own Party membership card. Studying the cards and holding Choe's hand tightly, his father had asked him to repay the honour and favour.

Choe awoke from his reverie and opened a case which he had cherished. In it were the shoulder straps from senior lieutenant to major which he received during his service.

Though they had been smoked in gunfire and become faded with time, each of the stars represented the trust of the

Quotes from Kim Jong IL

“Trial is temporary and victory is ever-lasting.”

“The birth and victory of the new always undergo difficulties.”

“Patriotism is devotion and hard work for the homeland and people.”

“Patriotism is represented by concern for one’s country, national salvation, loyalty and self-sacrifice.”

nation in him.

He swore to himself to lay down his life, if needed, for the country.

“Don’t meddle in my affairs.”

Choe joined the struggle for reunification in the south, and was later arrested by the south Korean authorities.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment. Brutal torture followed as the authorities tried to force him to recant. This extract from his memoirs describes one of the defining moments of his captivity:

“One day, eight years after I was arrested, I was again beaten until I lost consciousness at the torture centre. When I came to, I found I was in my cell. I managed to sit up, tidied myself and reported to President Kim Il Sung in my mind: ‘I’ve won today, too.’ Abruptly, the warder called me out of my cell. I thought he was walking me to yet more torture, but contrary to my expectation he made me change my clothes and took me to a hotel. There I saw my uncle, who had become a brass hat of the puppet army in the south. It was our first meeting since we parted in 1946. He said to me, ‘You have been serving such a long term. You have no need to feel uneasy about your conscience, do you? I have made every arrangement for you, and you have only to leave your signature on the documents renouncing your beliefs. You can live with me, and I’ll help

you make a new home.’ I replied, ‘I have chosen my own course in life, uncle. Don’t meddle in my affairs.’ No sooner had I said the words than stars flashed across my eyes. My uncle had slapped me on the cheek.”

Choe came back to the cell and looked out of the window. A flock of swallows gathered under the eaves. They reminded him of his home in Kim Chaek city and the smiling images of the wife and children he had left in Pyongyang. He begged inwardly, “Please continue to send me happy smiles.”

“I am 37.”

In September last year Choe finally returned to Pyongyang. He regained his youth. His hair may be gray, but his gait is lively. When someone says, “You must have built up your body since you were young,” he replies, “What? Why do you think I am old? I am only 37,” much to the surprise of the inquirer. He usually deducts the 37 years spent in south Korea from his age.

His new-found freedom has brought elation. As if attempting to master the scientific and technological progress that occurred during his prison term, he delves in wide-ranging information. Once an engineer, he often visits large and small factories, taking pleasure in his conversations with workers and technicians. Factories are not his only destination. He frequently meets

students, young workers and other people to give lectures, implanting his patriotic spirit in their minds. His message is that those who do not love their native places, parents and families cannot fulfil their duty to the leader and the nation.

His skill at the accordion remains as it was when he was young. Whenever he plays and sings by himself, his family, including his grandchildren, fall into a sentimental world.

His wife Kim Jae Suk says that he writes poems until late at night. He has recently produced several pieces and had them published in the Rodong Sinmun newspaper. One of them is titled “I’ll come to see you often, President”, published below.

The International Friendship Exhibition

At beautiful Mt. Myohyang Enshrines dear President Kim Il Sung’s statue;

So life-like it is

I rub my dreamy eyes,

Sure it is our President,

I’d like to throw myself into his embrace.

He welcomes me warmly And praises my struggle, Asking about my health and my comrades.

It seems as if

I were seeing the President

live, once again,

I say reverentially,

“I’ll come and see you often, President.”



Father and Sons, Bulldozer Drivers

As they gazed out over the newly realigned fields in South Hwanghae Province, local farm workers thought of those who had sweated to complete the project, including a father-and-sons foursome who had worked as bulldozer drivers at the site.

The father is Kim Pom Ryong, a Merited Tractor Driver. He has driven his bulldozer for more than 30 years, quietly performing his duty. His eldest son, Kim Yong Su, is reputed as an innovator who always operates his machine at full capacity. Kim Chol Su, his second son, is held in great affection for his reliably securing all spare parts and not only carrying out his own job diligently, but also helping others with their work. Kim In Su, his youngest son, has also laboured in obscurity to raise his own skill to the level of his father and brothers.

The family hail from Kaephung County, Kaesong City. The patriotic father and sons, however, left home to join the land realignment project in Kangwon Province, and then the same project in North Phyongan Province. Last year they took part in the South Hwanghae Province realignment project.

One day, during the early days of the project, the father began work about two hours after the scheduled time, for they had just been transferred to a new site. The day's work was over and the manager was about to praise him for his good work, when he

said to the manager, "Today I started work two hours late. Please allow me to do night work to make up for the two hours." He thus left the fields two hours later than the others.

When they finished the land realignment job in a county of South Hwanghae Province and were moving to the neighbouring county, the project headquarters decided to send the eldest son home because they thought at least one of four should take care of their home during the project.

The son felt sorry for his mother and wife, and his brothers wives, who had no one to depend on in their husbands' absence.

He, however, believed he could not concern himself only with his own family's affairs, and said to his father, "You've always said that to be a human being means having a conscience. How can I think only of our own family when everyone else is engaged in the building of a powerful and prosperous country, surmounting all difficulties? My mind's already made up. I won't take a step back on the road our family has taken, even if I might fall on the journey."

Later, their wives visited them, bringing aid. They supported their husbands' determination and encouraged them to be faithful to their duty to the end.

In May, while working the unirrigated paddy fields, the second son, Kim Chol Su, found that the farm workers had piled up spadefuls of earth left on a ridge after working on the field.

He immediately turned on his machine, but there was no obvious way across the paddy fields, which had already been planted with rice seedlings.

The farm workers told him not to worry about it as they would rearrange the field in autumn, but he replied, "I can't leave now, knowing the work is unfinished."

He finally managed to successfully drive his machine with its caterpillars straddling the 300m-long banks of the waterway. The work to rearrange the ridge of the field was completed.

During the last four years of the land realignment project they have never left their machines, even on birthdays and red-letter days, a fact they regard with happiness and pride.

In July, on his guidance tour to South Hwanghae Province, leader Kim Jong IL met the foursome. Kim Yong Su, the eldest son, on behalf of his father and brothers, expressed to the leader their unanimous determination to continue to perform their mission until the day the project is completed.

The leader praised what they had done as patriotic deeds, and had a photograph taken with them.

The father and sons continue to give their all, making innovations every day, for a future Korea that is powerful and prosperous.

Thue Myong Ho

Sunchon Koryo Medicine Factory

Koryo medicine is indigenous to Korea. It is actively encouraged to this day and continues to improve.

There are many Koryo medicine factories across the DPRK. One of them is Sunchon Koryo Medicine Factory, Sunchon city, South Phyongan Province.

The factory was inaugurated 25 years ago in Juche 65 (1976). It had a total floor space of 430 square metres when it opened, nearly ten times smaller than the present three-story structure with a total floor space of 4,200 square metres. After years of upgrading the factory now leaves nothing to desire in both appearance and content.

As part of continuous technical innovation, the factory recently modernized the extracting and enriching process, and improved the performance of the mill in order to obtain fine powder. The improvements resulted in a reduction in the number of production processes and the production of higher quality medicines. In the course of this long period of development, 70 per cent of the employees gained the status of engineer or associate engineer.

The factory is also notable for its hygienic conditions and environmental protection measures, essential for a company involved in the health sector. In Juche 87 (1998) it was awarded the title of the Twice Model Lathe No.26 Factory for its good maintenance of equipment.

The plant consists of a technical preparation section and three workshops producing Koryo

Workers producing Koryo Medicine

medicines in the form of tablets and liquid and that for a medical decoction.

More than 30 kinds of medicines are produced, including peptic, digestive, antifebric, and cough medicines, diarrhea remedy, medicines for external use such as tincture of iodine and a remedy for dermatophytosis, sedatives and

directly to workers in heavy industry sectors, including coal and other forms of mining.

The factory has never failed to fulfil its production targets since it began operation. It obtains raw materials by itself, having created its own materials production base where medicinal herbs such as *Anethum graveolens* L.,



nervine such as Samhyanguhwangchongsimhwa n-2 and Samhyang, and invigorants such as Ryukmihwan and liquid Rokyongboyak.

Koryo medicines produced at the factory are in great demand due to their high efficacy.

The products are supplied under the direction of the city medicine supply agency, being distributed to the City People's Hospital as well as other hospitals and clinics in the city. They make a big contribution to promoting the health of the local population and treating their conditions.

Through the offices of the state, Rokyongboyak is supplied

saposhnikovia divaricata Schischk., broad bellflower, *Angelica dahurica*, *Cyperus esculentus* L. are cultivated.

A team was formed to travel across the country to secure supplies of good herbs.

The factory is expected to undergo further modernization. It aims to increase production of invigorants and high quality popular medicines, in line with the developing situation in the country and the increasing demand for its medicines. Attention is currently being given to improving the packaging of products.

Ki Chol

Resolute Women

Becoming One in Their Minds

One day in June the fruit growing team of a cooperative farm, Sunan District, Pyongyang, were overjoyed to read the day's issue of Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the WPK. The paper carried the government order to award their workteam the Twice Three-Revolution Red Flag. Looking at the faces of the team members with tears in her eyes, their leader, Kim Myong Ok, looked back upon the day eight years before when the workteam began work.

It was in early May Juche 82 (1993) that Myong Ok came to the district, following her husband, who had been posted to the district Party committee of the WPK CC. The move provoked deep thought in her. At that time it was reported almost every day that innovations were being made across the country. She did not feel she could be content with

being a housewife only taking care of her husband.

There was shortage of workers in difficult and labour-intensive sectors. It was we, the wives of Party workers, who should take the lead in supporting those sectors, she thought. She conveyed her idea to the wives of her husband's colleagues. They were unanimous in agreeing with her appeal, and proposed volunteering to work at a nearby farm.

That evening, Myong Ok discussed the matter with her husband.

"Women's hands are needed to help their husbands, but I believe they should also contribute to creating wealth which can be handed down to posterity," she said to her husband. He agreed with her opinion, and expressed his confidence in her.

A few days later, 50 housewives formed into a workteam and volunteered to work at the town cooperative farm. The

management entrusted them with the task of growing fruit.

Pooling Efforts

In the early period of their work they found that the orchard offered reasonable foundations for production, but they were not satisfied. They made a bold plan to renovate their workplace. They wanted to double the area of the orchard, improve the varieties of fruit, and upgrade the production building and other facilities.

First of all they set about turning the slopes of the hill near the orchard into terraces.

From the outset it was no easy job, from cutting the surfaces to digging out rocks and tree roots. Their hands and lips blistered, and some women were injured. Some of the workteam members even collapsed, disheartened.

Then Myong Ok and Han Sun Yong, head of the Party organization of the workteam, encouraged



Them, saying “The other farm workers will be disappointed to see us, wives of Party workers, falling in the face of these difficulties.”

The women finished the undertaking. In succession they built an attractive farm implements store, a fruit boiling room, a pulverizing room, a locker room and a bathhouse. The workteam’s compound road was relaid, too.

Joy

The workteam members realized that increasing fruit production required improving the fertility of the soil, and so sought to increase the supply of manure.

Emphasis was put on breeding farm animals. Some doubted that they could do the job while simultaneously cultivating fruit trees, which by itself they considered difficult. Myong Ok, however, inspired her team to further efforts, resolutely carrying out the plan.

They brought lumber from felling area 40km away, where they themselves had cut the trees. Any spare time was used to make blocks.

Two years later a comprehensive pen appeared where pigs, goats, rabbits, fowl, geese and ducks could be bred. The pen has also produced large quantities of quality organic manure to be spread out on the fruit fields every year.

The team also strove to master the science and technology of fruit farming. To this end, Myong Ok herself brought necessary reference books from libraries and the Grand People’s Study House. Some of them enrolled in the correspondence course of a university, and relevant experts were invited to give lectures. Their increased knowledge enabled them to cultivate species of apple tree shorter than average, as well as other varieties of fruit, to replenish their orchard.

Looking at what they had created, Myong Ok said, “We have confidence that we can do anything by ourselves. We will

continue to work hard in order to win another Three-Revolution Red Flag without fail.”

Kim Il Sin

Pyongyang CVD Tools Development Company

Pyongyang CVD Tools Development Company was founded on 23 December Juche 81 (1992) with the original name of the Pyongyang Ceramic-Coated Tools Company. The enterprise manufactures elongation dies, joint cutting bites and other CVD tools—a dozen kinds in all—and provides them to relevant units around the country. Some of the products are exported to Thailand and other countries.

The company has directed its efforts into development of new products and modernization of equipment.

Reducing consumption of materials per unit of output has been a consistent goal. It has made a considerable contribution to the steady progress in the national economy, particularly to the increased production of coal and electricity. This year it carried out its annual tasks, including exports, far ahead of schedule.

Leader Kim Jong IL sent his thanks to the company at the end of June.

The initial period of operation was not a honeymoon for the company. When they had erected buildings and acquired some of the needed equipment, the nation faced challenging ordeals due to the US-led imperialist plot to isolate the country. This seriously affected the company’s ability to do business.

They had to go great lengths to acquire machinery still required to complete the process. The supply of electricity was inadequate, too. Nevertheless, both the management and workers did not simply complain about the adverse situation. Nobody hesitated to

go a long way, if need be, to get even a small item of equipment. Assistance from related enterprises was important in satisfactorily completing the establishment of production processes.

The company has aimed to achieve constant technical innovation. That requires skilled personnel, so it is no surprise that half of the employees have technical qualifications. Jon Kwang Guk presented the CVD Method for Uniform Layer Coating to the Fifth National Invention and New Technology Exhibition, winning the gold medal.

The sixth exhibition awarded bronze medals to the super-purity methane gas generator and the techniques of purifying cemented WC-CO carbide powder and preventing deformation in the sintering process. The business holds six new technology patents in all.

The technical innovation drive, involving all members of the company, is a sure guarantee of ever-increasing product quality. The range of products has grown to a dozen from the initial two. Internationally approved CVD technology was introduced into the manufacture of cutting edges, thereby lengthening the expected life span six-fold. The active life of the elongation die is 20-30 times longer than before the application of CVD technology. Thanks to the vigorous innovation drive, output has jumped.

The sintering process alone has achieved a six-fold leap in capacity.

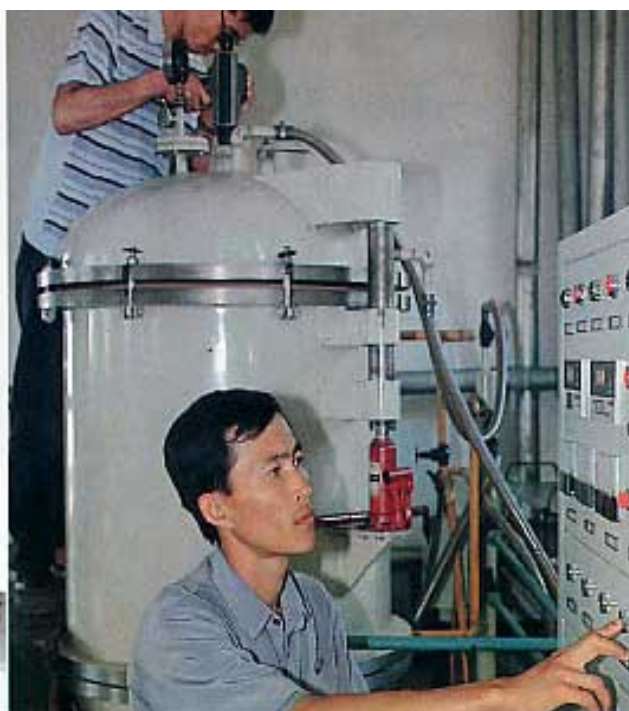
Customers speak highly of the consistently high quality of the company’s products.

All employees of the company, whether a manager, a technician or a worker, are making strenuous efforts to develop new kinds of tools, like the joint cutting bites, to meet the demands of the new century, and they aim to raise quality standards to world levels.

Yun Yong Gum



Production is computer-controlled.



Products undergo thorough examination.



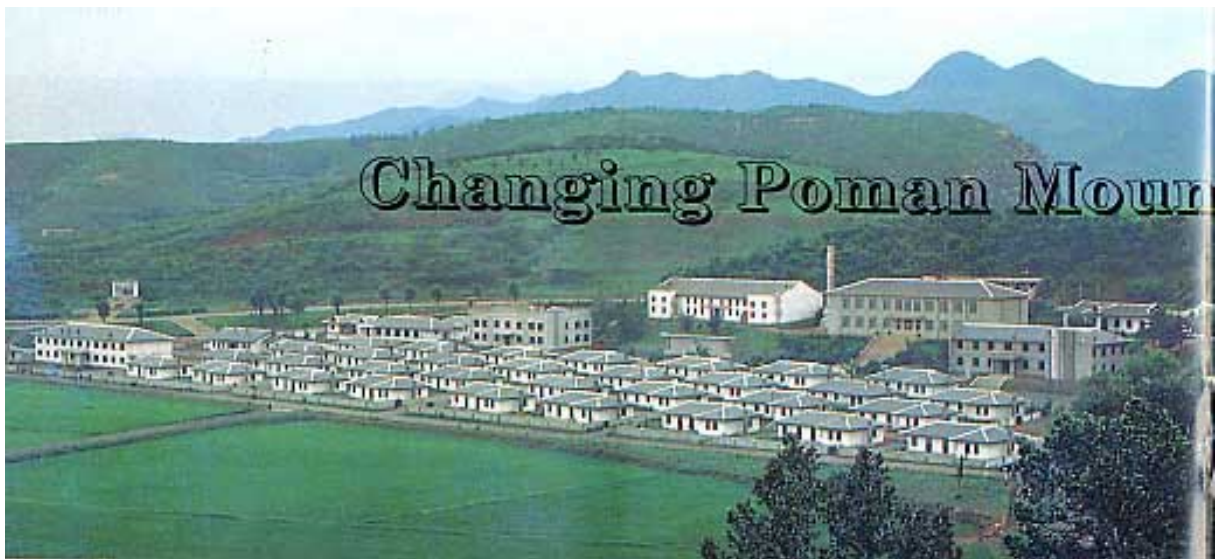
Ensuring the standard operation of machines.



Some of the products.



Polishing tools.



On July 11 leader Kim Jong IL visited the village of Poman-ri in Sohung County, North Hwanghae Province. It presented a picturesque scene, with a hill forested with vanona fruit trees at the back of the village, more than 100 modern houses blending well with the mountain scenery with fishponds swarming with fish in front of them, public buildings and the Poman Power Station sitting on the Sohung River. The leader was delighted.

A New Village

Originally several two-storeyed houses and one-storeyed houses were found dotted around the area.





Village



But in recent years and public buildings have been built, radically changing the appearance of the village. The identical houses standing in rows at the foot of the hill give the appearance of fairyland. Each house has three living rooms, an anteroom, a kitchen and a bathroom, and a store and an animal shed are attached to it.

A creche, a kindergarten, a shop and other public buildings form a pleasing ensemble with the farm houses.

Leader Kim Jong IL visited the house of subworkteam leader Pak Yong Chol, 34, and woman

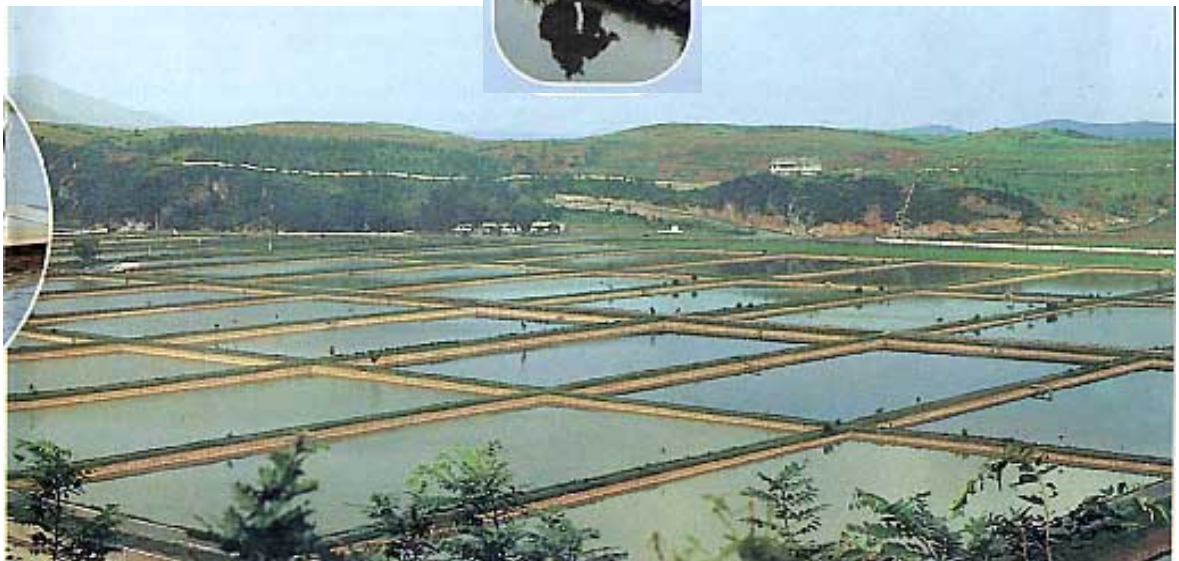
farmer Kim Song Nyo, 33. The couple said, "We would be thankful even if we lived in a time of plenty. But we had this house allotted to us when the country's economic situation was at its lowest point, so we are truly grateful to the state. Now we farmers live as well as city dwellers."

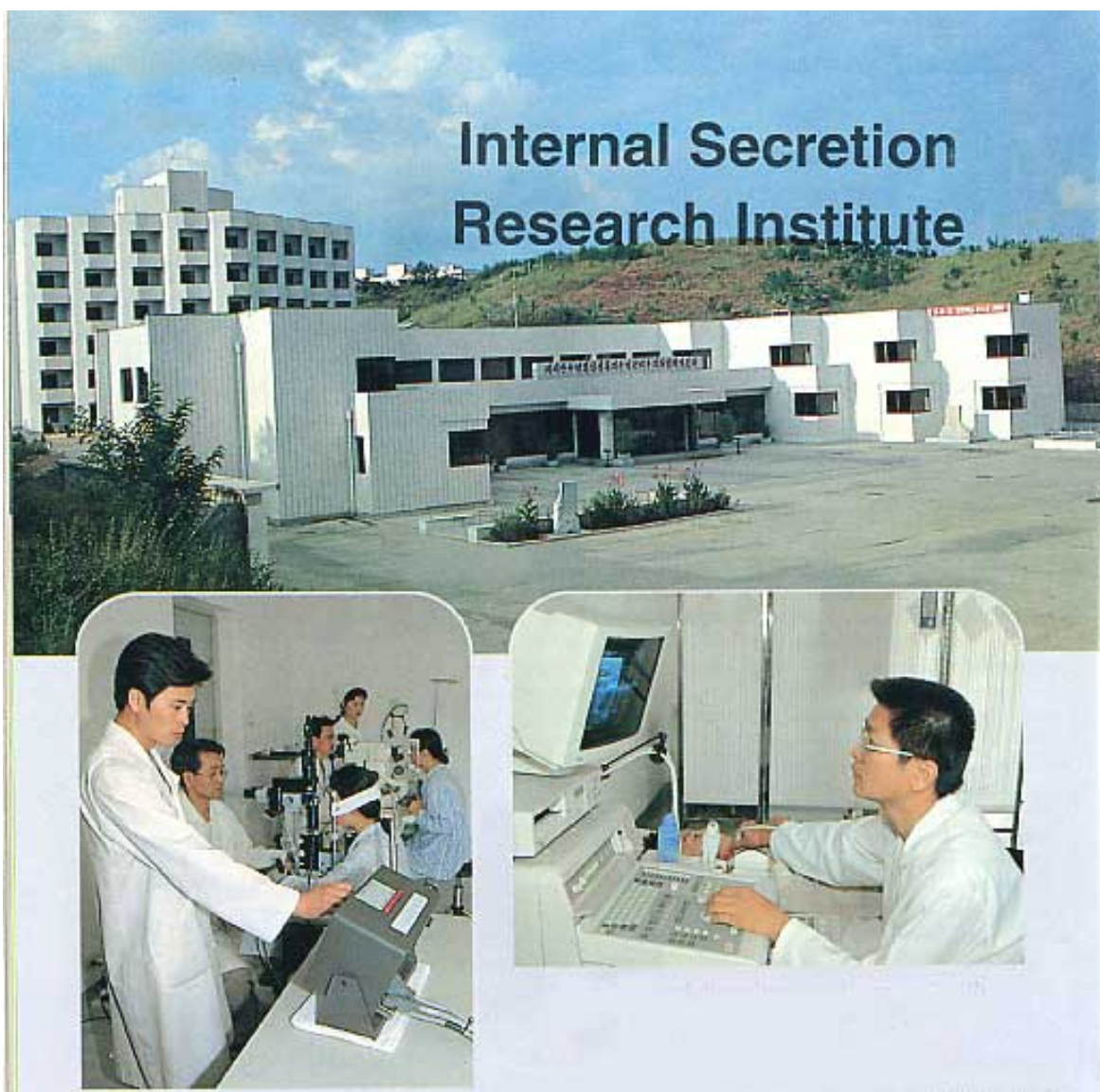


Fishponds With a Bright Future

The village has a fishpond of 850 square metres. In Juche 46 (1957) President Kim IL Sung visited the village and instructed it to develop fish-farming by using the mysterious spring that gushes there. The villagers began to breed fish, and time quickly passed. The small fishpond in one corner of a paddy field has become a large fish farm of 30 hectares. The spring flows at the rate of 650 litres per second and the farm breeds rainbow trout, carp, crucian and eel.

(Continued on page 27)





Internal Secretion Research Institute

Laser beams are applied into blood clotting

Thyroid gland disorders are diagnosed with the use of ultrasonic machines.



The Internal Secretion Research Institute in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang is a central base for studying the preventive diagnosis of internal secretion and metabolic disorders.

The research into this field began in Korea in the mid-1960, and a national internal secretion research institute was established in 1974. The institute started its work with six researchers, but was rapidly strengthened in staff numbers, materials and technical equipment with state support. It has now developed into a group with five doctors and 70 master's degree holders.

The institute moved into a new building in Chukjon-dong, Mangyongdae District, in 2000.

Researchers are in a conference.

The grand appearance of modern Kwangbok Street can be seen in the distance from the institute's new location. The site's woody and cosy surroundings, where various kinds of birds nestle, provide a favourable environment for the treatment of patients.

The total floor area of the institute is 8,000m². It comprises a building for examination and a six-story inpatients' ward.

The institute updated its equipment for research and medical treatment to mark its move to the new premises.

There are 23 laboratories for comprehensive diagnosis and treatment. Over 300 pieces of equipment of over 20 kinds are used for this purpose.

The researchers and medical workers are all graduates from Kim Il Sung University, the University of Sciences or Pyongyang University of Medicine.

On the strength of the latest medical successes, they are promoting research in various areas to develop new methods of diagnosis and treatment of world standard.

Of particular note is the research into curing diabetes by transplanting an artificial pancreas islet into the human body, the technical development of transplantation of the pancreas and pancreas islet, and perfecting the method of insulin gene treatment in laboratory experiments by introducing gene engineering.

Much attention is paid to treating diabetes with Koryo medicine, indigenous to Korea. As a result, effective medicines are being developed.

Various kinds of simple medicinal herbs, including arrowroot and *Sophora angustifolia* and combined medicines which include broken bits of yellow hemp and sea cucumber are favourably commented upon as they develop none of the side-effects caused by Western medicines in the treatment of mild and serious cases of diabetes.

Efforts are also channelled into overcoming the shortcomings of the Western medicines while strengthening the merits of the Koryo medicine. The institute was rewarded with the successful development of new drugs which combine Koryo and Western medicines. These have also proved effective in mild and serious cases of diabetes.

Meanwhile, research into manufacturing preventive medicines for diabetes is being accelerated in line with world developments. The researchers selected patients who have symptoms of diabetes, the stage prior to development of the

condition through check-up campaign. They administered *Sophora angustifolia* pills to them every day. The results confirmed that it was of substantial value as a preventive medicine.

Researchers at the mechanics and immunology research section are fully committed to the campaign to provide general information about this disease to the public and to take positive measures from the early period of its detection, by enlisting doctors at hospitals in every province, city, county and district.

The scientific and research successes being achieved at the institute are of great help in testing for this kind of illnesses and reducing incidence rates.

(Continued from page 25)

Ten of the 46 fishponds are for fry and the rest are for fattening fish.

There are warm-water fish spawning and rainbow-trout spawning buildings as well as many duck houses near the fishponds.

According to farm manager Ri Je Gan, 45, the fishponds are 2.4-3.8 metres deep.

The farm breeds fish scientifically by properly combining feed designed to encourage rapid growth with natural feed. It is working to complete the diversified methods of breeding fishes simultaneously at the upper, middle and lower water-levels to use feed effectively.

The farm produced a lot of fish this year, significantly contributing to raising the local population's standard of diet.

Poman Power Station

The Sohung River flows from the western base of the Myolak mountain range in northwestern Sohung County and heads southwestwards. Poman-ri lies on its banks.

The river flows at a maximum rate of 2,000 cubic metres per second and the Poman Power Station is the eighth power station built in the river. Its construction started in March last year and was completed a little over one year later. It has a 3.5 metre head of water. Electricity generated by the station is now used for the lighting and heating of the village.

The village plan is to increase its generating capacity and use electricity for cooking.

The village cooperative farm chairperson Sin Sun Hui, 43, said, "When we do farming well, we will be able to live really happily. It is to this end that our farmers are working hard."



I often think deeply of my life today.

Whenever I do so, I am filled with strong emotion and great excitement

I think that this is because my current life, flowering under the socialist system, is so valuable and proud.

My father was born into the family of a casual labourer who eked out a scanty living, subjected to harsh repression and maltreatment due to national ruin.

It was only after the country's liberation from Japanese colonial rule (August 15, 1945) that our family could greet the dawn of a new life.

As the eldest son of our family, I grew up happily, without envy, under our benevolent social system. I completed technical school after passing through the primary and middle school systems.

Then the state sent me to Kim Chaek University of Technology in Pyongyang so that I could develop my skills further.

On December 27, Juche 61 (1972), while I was engrossed in the study of science, the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was adopted at the First Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly.

Article 73 of the constitution

Thankful for the Constitution

declares, "Citizens have the right of education. This right is ensured by an advanced educational system, and state educational measures for the people."

In addition, this code of laws fully reflected the concern of the state for the working people, including the right to medical treatment and the right to labour and rest.

Thanks to this constitution, I could study hard and graduate from the university without paying a penny. I even received a scholarship from the state.

After graduation, I worked at the university as a researcher and a teacher, something that gave me immense pleasure.

This was also the result of the constitution. Article 70 states that 'All able-bodied citizens can choose occupations according to their desire and skills, and are provided with stable jobs and working conditions...'

That is not all. When I got married, I was provided with a flat free of charge.

I worked with all my heart. I wanted to offer even my life for the social system which protects the rights and interests of citizens as much as possible and legally guarantees an equal material and cultural life.

While putting a great deal of effort into the education of my students, I wrote more than 30 books which I hoped would be conducive to the development of science and technology in our country. In the course of my work, I trained over 10 Masters of Science and Doctorate holders.

In this process I have become a Master of Science and then a Doctor and an associate professor. In Juche 79 (1990) I

was appointed chief engineer at the Korean Computer Centre. Not long after that I came to concurrently hold the post of president of the Korean Computer Technology Association.

At that time I was choked with tears of gratitude for my country, because it had brought me up, the son of a casual labourer, to be a leading official of a large institution.

Whenever the opportunity arose, the state gave me the honour of having a medal or award conferred on me. It also invited me to attend the conference of Korean intellectuals and other national meetings.

My younger brothers and my children also enjoy the benefits of the constitution.

The brothers are now working as researchers and managers of administrative or production units after graduating from Kim Il Sung University.

My only daughter is working as a researcher at the Pyongyang College of Computer Technology, the college she graduated from.

My father always says to us, "If there were no socialist system and constitution, the appearance of university students in an ordinary family like ours would be out of the question. Bearing this in mind at all times, you must be ready to lay down your lives for this system."

I am resolved to contribute a worthy share to the building of a powerful and prosperous country by working hard to develop science and technology in our country, true to the socialist constitution.

Choe Un Chol, Chief Engineer, Korean Computer Centre

Hairdresser for Children

Recently a demonstration lecture was organized at the Ryusong Senior Middle School in the Central District, Pyongyang, on the subject of hairdressing for children.

It was attended by the chairman of the Pyongyang City People's Committee and officials in the fields of education, sanitation and welfare services in the city and the district. The achievements and the experience accumulated at the hairdresser's in this school made a great impression on those present.

In particular, the work of hairdresser Kwak Myong Ok over the past 20 years touched their heartstrings, for she has cut the hair of the pupils with a tremendous sense of responsibility, never missing a day's work.

Kwak is a 48-year-old woman of small build. I asked her why, given the range of occupations she could have taken up, she had chosen to become a children's hairdresser.

She responded by taking out a small, dog-eared notebook, placing it on the table before me. Written inside it was a poem entitled "A Ballad of Joy".

*"You say you are a hairdresser,
a school hairdresser..."*

He strolls along the lakeshore.

*"It is a good thing. You must
be very glad.*

*For you trim the hair of
children almost every day,
Passing your hands over their
heads and stroking their cheeks.
I cannot do so, as I am busy
with my work...*

*Our future, our descendants
Children who will take over
this world full of treasures.
They are more beautiful and
precious than flowers!*

*Don't you agree? You, old
man, do honourable work..."*

Kwak said to me, "This poem is

based on a conversation between President Kim IL Sung and a school hairdresser who was

out fishing. Deeply moved by the poem, I made up my mind to become a children's hairdresser."

The motive for choosing an occupation differs from individual to individual. But Kwak's motive made me think of many things.

She had been working as a hairdresser for 20 years, not a short period. Hadn't she ever wavered in her attachment to the job? When I put this question to her, she could not reply promptly.

At the time of the 'Arduous March', which is known as the period of the most trying ordeals in our country in recent years, her family, who had previously lived happily, ignorant of hunger, were often forced to eat gruel as a substitute food.

She frequently became giddy while working due to hunger. Whenever she was dizzy, she felt that she could no longer continue her work. But she did not yield to the difficulties.

With self-reproach, she would say to herself, "I have chosen this job of my own accord, resolved to dedicate myself entirely to children. How can I succumb to temporary

difficulties?"

She plucked up her courage and buckled down to work again.

There were many sources of worry in her job. But she worked hard for the children, overcoming all the difficulties with a smile.

On one occasion she felt sick in her heart due to first-year pupil, Kang Yu Song. She had cropped his hair in a similar style to that of the other pupils, without taking into consideration the uncommon shape of his head. She had been prepossessed with the idea of cutting the hair of more children. After that day, he did not appear at the hairdressing room. The reason was that she had cropped his hair unattractively.

Her heart felt heavy when she learned what had happened.

Now Yu Song had departed from her, she thought. Tomorrow a cloud would be likely to pass over the faces of many other pupils. Then the measure of the state for setting up a hairdressing salon at every school would not display its worth.

At this thought she called at Yu Song's home, apologized to him for her mistake and did a "special service" for him.

Her endeavour was not confined to this alone. Generally speaking, children cannot keep still for a minute. Taking this



Kwak Myong Ok among pupils.

into consideration, she put many books, including illustrated ones she had obtained, on the table in the waiting room, so that they could widen their knowledge while they waited.

At the same time, she made every effort to keep the hairdressing room neat and tidy and develop it to suit the minds of children.

The children began calling her "our mother-hairdresser".

The school did much to support her. It made efforts to obtain the fixtures and hairdressing implements which were in short supply and offered them to her. It saw to it that the efforts of the collective were directed into building a modern and hygienic salon. It also put her forward as someone worthy of public respect and helped her to solve difficult problems.

A school tour to Mt. Kumgang was once organized.

The teachers made sure that the best room in the hotel was occupied by the bean milk supplier and the children's hairdresser. Among the travellers were the principal of the school, distinguished teachers and those respected in view of their age or for their length of service. But the best room was preferentially supplied to the milk supplier and the hairdresser, because their efforts to bring up the "kings" of the country healthily and give them fine haircuts were as important as educational work.

Kwak's dedication was tested on one occasion, as she suffered ill-health for quite some time.

However, she could not find time to go to hospital, as she was pressed for time working for the children.

Upon learning this, leading officials of her district, who

were paying special attention to children's hair-cutting, took measures on her behalf by making contact with the public health service.

In recent years she had the opportunity to take part in the conference attended by the famous leaders of the Chollima movement.

Cherishing this honour deep in her mind, she is as ever devoting herself entirely to cutting the hair of the pupils who will shoulder the future of our country.

Raknang District Schoolchildren's Library

RAKNANG District Schoolchildren's Library lies on Thongil Street in the capital city of Pyongyang. It is situated to the left of the Chungsong Bridge, which crosses over to Haeundong in Phyongchon District. The library is a convenient place for children to visit as it is close to main roads and a number of schools are nearby.

One day in late autumn I visited the library. A grove of green nutpines and benches lay in front of it. When I opened the front door, the notice board

immediately attracted my attention. The board had the slogan, "Study, study and study" boldly written in the upper part. It introduced many new books and also provided general knowledge to readers. A section on model readers aroused particular interest.

"Ri In Suk from Chungiong Senior Middle School and Kim Kwang Hyok from Yanggak Senior Middle School came to the library every day and studied books on modern science and technology, the collection of mathematical problems and books on basic science. They came first and second at the city quiz programme. Warm congratulations to them!"

The small article told me a great deal.

The first person I met was chief librarian Pak Sun Hye. She said, "My library has a short history, but it is always crowded with schoolchildren. It provides a book lending service to the pupils of 11 schools in the district, and counts 3,000 schoolchildren as regular readers. Every day, 200-300 schoolchildren come to my library."

We walked into a hall as I listened to her story.



I saw posters on the walls and collections of study materials on the desks. A question-and-answer poster explained why sea water does not dry up, using illustrations suited to schoolchildren's mentality.

First I entered the natural science reading room. All the schoolchildren sat still at their desks devouring their chosen books. I glanced around to see what books they were reading, being careful not to disturb them. Some children were reading books on "Nature and our life", others computer instruction texts. They appeared to be from the graduating class of the senior middle school, or third or fourth grade.

The general book reading room was the next stop on my tour. The readers were from the first grade of primary school to the first or second grade of senior middle school. The sight of small children reading silently delighted me. Next I met Pak

Won Il, a second grader from Thosong Primary School, who was reading a book of fairy tales. I asked him what title he was reading so contentedly. He replied that he was reading the fairy tale "The Butterfly and the Cockerel" told by President Kim Il Sung. He said, "The bird messes about, thinking light of the small butterfly, and tries to catch and eat it. But in the end he is drowned by the wisdom and bravery of the butterflies." Won Il added that he would be good friends with the other children. He pledged to study hard and do good things, helping and leading each other forward, and become a good man.

I asked Pak Un Sik, a second grader from Chungiong Senior Middle School sitting by Won Il's side, about his impressions of the library. He said that the library widened his view of the world and increased his knowledge. His classmates were fond of coming to the library, he



added.

During my visit, I also saw "stack" rooms. They contained picture books, novels and books on basic science for children, 20,000 in all.

"My library aims to give children a love of books and develop an interest in natural sciences. We hope to develop their ability to express their impressions of the books they read," said the librarian.

As I left the library, I hoped that the book-devouring children would grow up to be fine scientists or good state officials.

Sim Chol Yang

Three Schools Awarded Hero School Status

Senior middle schools which produce many DPRK Heroes are officially recognized as hero schools.

Recently, the title of Hero School has been given to Hyesan Senior Middle School No.1 in Hyesan city, Ryanggang Province, Musan Senior Middle School in Musan County, North Hamgyong Province and Kangso Senior Middle School No.1 in Kangso District, Nampho city.

The Ministry of Education and related agencies make sure that designated schools receive extra investment and the rising generations are effectively educated in the spirit of the heroes who sacrificed themselves for the good of the Party and leader, and for the country and people.

East Asian Regional Children's Art Festival Held

The East Asian Regional Children's Art Festival was held in Beijing from August 21 to 23 under the sponsorship of UNESCO.

Children's performance groups from seven countries and regions, including the DPRK, China, Mongolia, and Japan, took part in the festival.

Korean children staged the chorus "Song of General Kim Jong IL", dances, a quartet, kayagum (a traditional Korean string instrument) solo and other works, vividly showing their happy, cheerful outlook on learning and development under the care of their benevolent homeland.

The Korean children's performance won great admiration from audiences.

Everyone Can Study While Working

ON July 15 this year the Democratic People's Republic of Korea marked the significant 50th anniversary of the founding of university-level factory colleges.

Factory colleges are study-while-working technical colleges set up at large factories and enterprises.

These colleges have so far trained many technical experts and factory managers.

Among them are dozens of Twice Labour Heroes, Labour Heroes and deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly, as well as a great number of doctors and masters of science.

All the graduates are making a significant contribution in various fields of socialist economic construction. They are competent technical personnel and Korean cadres who are equipped with both the theoretical and practical skills necessary to develop their enterprises.

The graduates have invented and introduced into production hundreds of thousands of technical innovations at factories and other businesses across the nation, representing a considerable proportion of the total number of such improvements.

Ryongsong College of Mechanical Engineering at the Ryongsong Machine Complex has produced three Labour Heroes, several People's and Merited Scientists and over 800 patentees and contrivance certificate possessors.

Graduates of the college account for 77 per cent of the technical personnel at the plant.

They have designed and manufactured 4,000-hp

compressors and numerically-controlled boring machines, and are playing an important role in modernizing and enhancing the role of science at their enterprise.

A similar example can be found at the Komdok College of Technology, part of the Komdok Mine, which is one of the leading nonferrous metal production centres in Korea.

The graduates of this factory college account for 92.2 per cent of the managers and technicians at the mine. Many of their inventions and innovations are of national importance. They number in the hundreds, including an air dust collector and a steam-operated dust collecting device for use at pit faces.

The skills developed at the colleges make the graduates the foundation stone of their factories and enterprises.

This results from the organic combination of educational work at the colleges with production activities at the factories.

The colleges conduct educational work suited to the specific conditions of the factories, focussing on the development of the productive forces and the tasks of the technical revolution in our country. In particular, efforts are being channelled into finding practical solutions to urgent technological problems.

The factories and enterprises with factory colleges are therefore not only production bases, but also centres for training technical personnel and stimulating the development of the nation's science and technology.

The role of teachers at these colleges is regarded as of vital importance.

Evidence of this fact is that educational work is closely linked with scientific research.

Educators put a great deal of effort into the solution of urgent scientific and technological problems with worker-students, getting to grips with the realities of work at the factories and enterprises.



Students from the Inhung College of Agriculture on a field trip



Students from Pyongyang College of Technology gaining knowledge of practical use.

An Yong Ik, an associate professor at the Tokchon College of Technology has invented many devices, sharing his skills with the colleges for 36 years.

He designed a super-high-pressure device shaped like a plate, a universal 24-shaft drill press and other kinds of equipment conducive to motorcar manufacture and introduced them into production.

Many scientific and technological issues have been solved by the teachers' painstaking research and tireless efforts. They include the "three-star lathe No. 3 transmission control system" designed and produced by Choe Tal Un, a professor at the Kusong College of Technology, and the computerized drawing system made by Kim Chang Uk, also a professor at the college.

The teachers are striving to improve the training of technical personnel by applying the achievements they have attained in scientific research to their teaching.

In addition, they make constant efforts to raise their qualifications and improve their teaching methods.

Apparatus for experiments is being reviewed in response to trends in the development of modern science and technology.

The state pays close attention to the factory colleges, and invests heavily in them. The large number of skilled workers that can be trained in a

short period of time makes the factory college system a key part of the government's education policy.

The achievements and experience gained at the colleges of technology are currently a matter of great interest both at home and abroad.

An educational delegation from China and another from Teheran University in Iran, among others, have visited Komdok College-of Technology, Sapho College of Technology and many other colleges to learn from the experience they have accumulated in their operation.

Korean Proverbs

Cross the shallow stream like a deep one.

Don't lose your heart, even if you are drowning.

Ask the way even if you are sure you know it.

Dyeing Fingernails With Balsam Blossoms

From ancient times Koreans have loved flowers so much that a number of related folk customs came into being, including dyeing fingernails with balsam blossoms.

The fingernail dyeing was, and still is, popular with Korean women. It also reflects the nation's noble and sentimental feelings and resourcefulness.

Horan Sol Hon, a famous woman poet in the 16th century, wrote the song "Dyeing Fingers with Balsam Blossoms" to describe the beauty of the fingernails dyed red with the blossoms.

The Korean people regarded balsam as one of the flowers which made them homesick, so in April every year they planted it in their kitchen gardens, tending it with great care.

In June, when its blossoms of red, pink and other colours came out, women and children dyed their nails with them. They also dried them so that they could be stored and used to dye their nails every day.

The women achieved the effect by mixing the blossoms and leaves with alum and pulverizing the mixture before wrapping them upon nails.



Merited Athlete Ri Kyong Ok is one of Korea's women judo stars. The 21-year-old girl, 157cm tall and weighing 48 kg is the eldest daughter of an ordinary Pyongyang family. Her coach, Ryu Ju Song, 34 told me about the time he has spent with her when I met him recently.

I met Kyong Ok for the first time live years ago. At the time I was working at the youth and children's general training centre. Previously I had been a student and athlete at Korea University of Physical Education, and had later become a teacher of the same university. Kyong Ok was my first charge as coach of the women's judo team.

At first she seemed an ordinary girl, with nothing conspicuous about her physique or looks. She had been a member of a

Judo Competitor, Ri Kyong Ok

judo group at the Moranbong District Sports Club since she was 12, but had never taken part in competition.

In the course of training her, however, I discovered that her build was ideally suited to judo. She was also mentally strong.

As everybody knows, an athlete with natural ability still won't succeed if he or she doesn't have the right attitude—stubbornness I suppose.

Kyong Ok possessed these qualities.

Training amounts to the daily hard labour required for athletes to overcome their limitations. Kyong Ok managed to surmount unimaginable difficulties and readily accepted

whatever strict demands I set on her in her training. She actually set even stricter demands upon herself, striving to master basic technical movements such as shifting of balance, moving of the body, the creation of opportunities and various other techniques.

As a result, one year after she joined the centre, she began to distinguish herself in domestic competitions, building a good competitive record. During this period, she improved her ability to read her rivals' intentions and used appropriate tactics in every contest. At the same time, she polished various special techniques she had acquired. She thus became recognized at home as a promising athlete.



Ri Kyong Ok(first left) competing at an international competition.

Her ability was displayed at the all-star judo contest held in March in Munich, Germany. She won the bronze medal in the women's 48kg division, a laudable achievement, as it was her debut in international competition.

She continued to perform well at the 14th Asian Judo Championships, held in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, the first in the new century. She bent all her rivals by using her leg-grasping technique and skilful feints of movement of their thighs on her way to becoming champion. Not only did she win the gold medal, she also took the prize for technical skill and the title of best competitor at the championships.

Kyong Ok once again entered the 48kg-category division at the World Judo Championships held in Munich in July. As you saw, she took second place by a judges' decision. People felt very disappointed about that.

On the way back home, she said, "I am sorry, but I'll do it next time," before being choked with emotion. You could see in her tearful eyes the grim resolution to fulfil that pledge.

An Nam Hui

Kim Hyon Hui
Runner-Up in World Cup

The 2001 World Cup Women's Table Tennis Championships was held in Anhui Province, China, from August 17 to 19. Sixteen world table tennis champions from 13 countries and regions, including table tennis championship holders in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America took part. DPRK Merited Athlete Kim Hyon Hui came second in the women's singles event.

Winners in Synchronized Swimming

DPRK women placed first in four synchronized swimming events at the First Asian Age Group Swimming Championships, held in Hong Kong, China, from August 24 to 26. Over 700 swimmers from 22 Asian countries and regions

competed in singles and doubles divided into group A (age 13-15) and group B (age 16-18). Jang Ok Sun, of group A and Choe Yon Mi of group B came first in singles on August 25. Tokgo Pom and Yun Hui of group A and Hwang Su Jong and Kim Pun Hui of group B came first in the doubles on August 26.

21st Universiad Held

Son Un Hui took the gold in the women's side horse vault while Ham Pong Sil did likewise in the women's half-marathon race at the 21st Universiad in Beijing. Meanwhile, Pak Yong Ryong and Choe Hyong Gil finished runners-up in the men's 10m synchronized platform diving. DPRK athletes came third in the women's 52kg and men's 73kg judo, women's table tennis, gymnastics, team diving, women's 10m platform diving, women's table tennis doubles, and women's half-marathon. Ki Yong Sam

Thaesongri Tomb No. 3—Koguryo

Tomb with Mural Paintings

The Korean Central History Museum and the Archaeology Research Institute of the Academy of Social Science unearthed Thaesongri tombs Nos. 1 and 2 at Thaesong-ri, Kangso District, Nampho city a long time ago. Following this, they have recently excavated a tomb with mural paintings built during the Koguryo Dynasty (227 BC-AD 668) at the same village.

The newly discovered tomb has been named Thaesongri Tomb No. 3.

The tomb lies on the top of a hill, 67 metres above sea level, which is farmed by a fruit-growing team at Thaesong Cooperative Farm.

It is a typical Koguryo tomb which was built by digging down to some extent, erecting a stone-built chamber where the remains of the dead lie in state and piling earth over the tomb.

The base of the tomb is square. As it rises, it gradually becomes round. It is nearly four metres

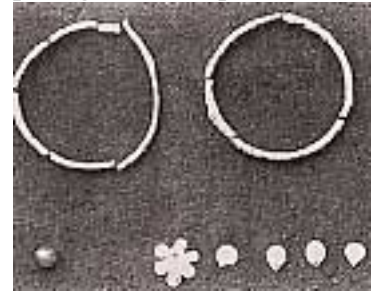
high and the side of its base is 32 metres long.

The tomb consists of a passage built on its south side, a space just behind the door, a space in front, a lateral space on the west side, a lateral space on the east, a corridor leading to the space on the rear side, and another passage east of the corridor. The space just behind the door of the tomb is equivalent to the gateway of a building on the ground. The space in front can be likened to the front yard, the space to the rear to the king and his wife's living room, and the corridor to a pathway to a back yard. One of the two lateral spaces symbolizes a royal palace where the king managed the affairs of state and the other the management offices for the courts financial matters.

The chamber, partitioned into several parts, covers a space of 38.68 square metres. The walls in the doorway were built of plain rocks which were piled up one on

top of another, with plaster applied several times. All the other partitioned spaces in the room were constructed using granite slates.

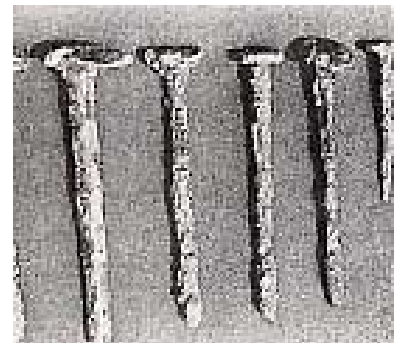
Bronze bracelets and pure-gold crown pieces.



A building block used to construct the tomb



Nails from coffins.



The site of a compartment of the tomb.



The entrance to the chamber is closed with two well-finished large plain rocks, and its exterior is hardened by a mixture of stone and plaster.

Various methods were employed to prop the ceiling including the balanced propping, the trigonal propping and the balanced trigonal propping. Mural paintings are visible on the right and left walls of the doorway, on the lime-plastered wall of the ceiling and on other stone walls.

The tomb was plundered by foreign aggressors several times and the walls and the ceiling in particular were heavily damaged.

As a result, only the image of a man and some patterns painted on the lime-plastered west wall in the doorway can now be seen. Many fragments of mural paintings which were lying scattered around the inside of the tomb have been found.

The floor of the chamber was found littered with various kinds of relics, such as solid-gold articles and beads, both of which were decorations on the gold crown, bronze bracelets, glazed earthenware, a number of fragments of earthenware, nails from the coffins, building parts and so on.

Viewed from various aspects—building structure, building materials and the variety of relics—it appears to be a tomb on the level of a king's mausoleum. It is therefore an important site for the study of the history and culture of Koguryo.

Thaesongri Tomb No.3 is less refined than the well-known Anak Tomb No.3, which is believed to have been built in 357, both in the finish of the building materials and the method of construction of the main chamber where the dead were laid in state. This suggests that it was built a little earlier than the Anak tomb, probably in the early to middle part of the 4th century.

Its plane structure is almost the same as King Kogukwon's 'mausoleum (Anak Tomb No.3). The biggest difference is that the corridor of the former mausoleum is on the left side but that of the latter is on the right side. The former is

somewhat smaller than the latter in area.

Pongsan Mask Dance

The Pongsan mask dance is a national dance derived from the masquerade which originated in the Pongsan area, Hwanghae Province (now North Hwanghae Province).

The dance enjoyed its heyday in the period between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, and was performed as a form of folk drama based on a certain playbook.

More than 30 masks of men or animals, including lion and monkey, were used to cover the face.

The dance includes the sangiwa, phalmok, popko, sarang, rosung, sinjangsa, chibal, ryangban, phodobijang, mial and namgukroin dances.

The sangiwa dance is performed by four young Buddhist monks. They dance to the accompaniment of musical instruments, each wearing a white coat with a red robe slung across his shoulder and a peaked hat. It depicts young monks who come down to a town and indulge in dancing alone, a world away from the chanting of sutras and cultivation of the religious sense of the temple in the mountains.

The phalmok dance was performed by eight monks, each

covering his face with a red mask representing the sinister countenance of a man. Later, solo and group dances were combined.

The popko dance is an impromptu dance. In this dance the eight monks with black coats reappear, together with a nyosadang (a song-and-dance girl of old Korea), carrying a janggo (a long Korean drum that tapers in the middle) or small gongs in their hands and dance to the rhythm.

The sarang dance is also an impromptu dance. It is performed by a nyosadang wearing a red skirt and a green Korean jacket, along with several monks who disguise themselves as kosa (a song-and-dance boy in former days). They wear a rough hat made of split bamboo above their masks and sleeveless jackets.

The rosung, sinjangsa, chibal, ryangban, phodobijang and mial dances are all dedicated to exposing the corruption and foulness of the monks and a satire on the depravity of the bureaucrats hailing from the aristocratic class.

These mask dances show to some degree the miserable living conditions of the ordinary people, who suffered misfortune and pain in the corrupt feudal society.

The dances were performed mainly in the farmer's slack season and on festive days.



Origin and Development of Astronomy and Calendars in Korea

The Koreans of olden times closely studied astronomical phenomena and made and used calendars, which were of great importance in their lives. They began their study of celestial phenomena in order to make a calendar in the period of ancient Korea (early 30th century BC-108 BC).

In recent years archaeologists have discovered and studied over 200 dolmens in the River Taedong basin, on whose roof-stones constellations are grooved in a round shape. These dolmens were made three to five thousand years ago, and the more than 40 constellations marked on their roof stones are the ones seen in the night sky over Pyongyang.

In the course of astronomical observation, ancient Koreans

learned, to quite a high level of accuracy, the length of a year and a month. They made a calendar with the information and used it in their plowing, sowing, harvesting and other farming activities.

The study of celestial phenomena and the compilation and use of the calendar were further developed in the period (mid-3rd century BC to mid-7th century AD) of the Three Kingdoms (Koguryo, Paekje and Silla).

Koguryo astronomers closely observed all stars which could be seen with the naked eye at the time.

According to historical material they made five records of solar eclipses, four records of planets and one record of the sun. This

evidence of careful record-keeping shows that Koguryo made astronomical observation the object of state concern.

Astronomers defined one year as 365.25 days in the early days of the Koguryo era. Around the beginning of the fourth century they more accurately defined it as 365.2460 days.

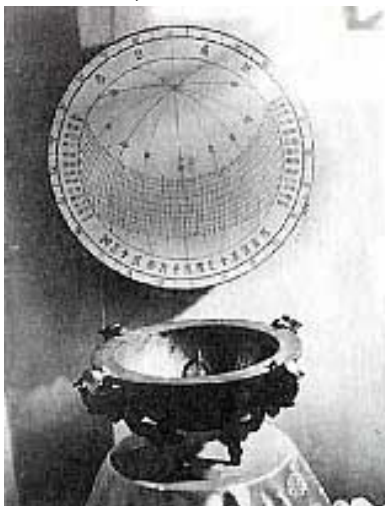
This is only a little longer than the average solar year (365.2422) used in the modern calendar.

They defined one month as 29.53 days, again quite accurately. This is a little shorter than the length of one month (29.530588 days) defined at present.

Paekje and Silla also developed astronomy and made great progress in the compilation and use of calendars.

In the 31st year of King Song (553) Paekje, at the request of Japan, sent a calendar specialist and a calendar to the country, which testifies to the high level of development of astronomy and calendars in Paekje.

In the seventh century Silla built the famous observatory Chomsongdae, and produced and used an accurate calendar.



A sundial.



Chonsangryolchabunya-jido, an old Map showing the distribution of The stars.

Koryo, the first unified state of Korea (918-1392), developed this work to a higher level. It built a weather station and an astronomical observatory, and regularly carried out observations, steadily developing the compilation of a precise calendar.

In Korea, astronomical observation and the compilation of calendars made further progress under the Ri Dynasty (1392-1910).

In the 24th year of King Sejong (1442) the Ri Dynasty completed the inner and outer parts of Chiljongryok, a book explaining the calendar theory and calendar compilation methods. The inner part systematizes astronomical theory and methods of calendar compilation, such as the method used to decide monthly dating, the method of identifying the 24 divisions of the year, the theory of the movements of the sun and the moon, the method of defining the hours by stars, the method of measuring the length of daytime and night, forecasting techniques for solar and lunar eclipses, the theory of the meteor movements, and the theory of lunar and solar orbit crossing movements. The outer part is devoted entirely to the lunar calendar theory.

The solar calendar is made with one year as the standard cycle, the time the earth takes to go round the sun. The lunar calendar with one month as its cycle, the time the moon requires to move round the earth.

The ancestors of today's Korea contributed greatly to the development of human science

and culture with their creative wisdom and talent.

arrival of my dear husband.
Her sijo poems (a kind of lyric poem) show the deep

The Talented Women Poets of the Ri Dynasty



In medieval times there were not a few women poets in Korea who won fame for their extraordinary creative talents.

The work of Horan Sol Hon, Hwang Jin I and Ri Ok Pong in particular, is regarded as representative of female poetic literature in the Middle Ages.

Horan Sol Hon left a lot of work giving an insight into the society of the time. The poems, "The Girl of a Poor Family", "Hardships to Be Endured in Building a Fortress", "Impressions", are her masterpieces. "The Girl of a Poor Family" is particularly noteworthy as it describes the pitiful circumstances of a girl who, due to her family's poverty, is forced to give up her dream of getting married, instead spending her days making bridal gowns for other girls. The poem exposes the social evils of the feudal system of that time, which were caused by the distinctions between rich and poor, noble and mean.

Hwang Jin I is also considered a leading figure among the women poets of medieval Korea due to her delicate yet vivid poetical representation.

Hwang clearly shows her distinctive personality in her poetry.

*I will cut in two the long night
of the 11th lunar month
And put them under my
bed quilt to be laid out on
pleasant spring days.
Then I will spread them at full
length at night on the day of*

psychological world of man by giving them the intensity of a picture and thus heightening their lingering emotional effect.

"A Half-Moon" and "The Pakyon Falls" are also excellent works that illustrate Hwang's creativity.

Ri Ok Pong was another gifted poet of the age. She was highly estimated by many literary men of later eras. Her poetry stands out from that of the other women poets, for it delves deep into the psyche of women and describes it through vivid poetical representation.

*Why does my darling not come,
though he promised to? The
plum blossom in front of
the yard have already withered.
Even hearing the chatter of
magpies on a tree branch, I
hurriedly pencil my eyebrows,
looking at myself in the mirror.*

This poem, "The Mind of a Woman" gives a dexterous artistic depiction of the motions of a woman who is sitting alone, waiting for her love. "Festival of Star Vega" and "For the Woman of the Neighbouring House" are also considered to be fine examples of her creative talent.

Korean women created excellent literary works which truthfully described their sentiments and aspirations, even though they were subjected to intense feudal oppression. By so doing, they conspicuously added to the treasurehouse of Korean national literature.

Grand March for National Reunification 2001

Korean people in the north, south and abroad brilliantly celebrated 2001 as the turning point in the movement for independent national reunification.

Prelude to Grand Reunification March

In January distinguished figures from the DPRK government, political parties and public organizations held a meeting to discuss the issue of giving new momentum to the process of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation.

The meeting called for making this year a “year of the independent reunification of the Korean nation”, setting the period from June 15, the first anniversary of the publication of the historic north-south joint declaration, to August 15, Korea’s Liberation Day, as the “June 15-August 15 period for the promotion of national reunification”. It called upon 70 million Korean people to celebrate the first anniversary of Liberation Day in the 21st century as a nationwide pro-reunification festival.

Their proposals enjoyed the full support of all Koreans.

The All-People Council for National Reconciliation and Cooperation pledged to actively conduct a campaign for dialogue and cooperation to prepare for the first anniversary of the joint declaration and the August 15 Liberation Day celebrations.

Vice-Chairman Nam Sung U of the Central Standing Committee

of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan issued an appeal to positively respond to the nationwide, patriotic reunification movement for the implementation of the joint declaration by conducting a tangible reunification campaign among all Koreans in Japan.

The European Regional Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country’s Reunification published a statement expressing its support for the call made by the Pyongyang meeting.

By putting forward realistic proposals, the January meeting in the capital inspired all Koreans to join the efforts to open the gate to reunification by their own efforts.

Grand Seminar on National Reunification

A grand seminar on national reunification took place on June 15 at Mt. Kumgang, one of Korea’s most famous mountains, to mark the first anniversary of the June 15 Joint Declaration.

The seminar, titled “June 15 Joint Declaration and Task of the Nation”, discussed the issues of supporting the joint declaration and vigorously promoting its implementation using the united strength of the whole nation.

The speakers said that for the earliest possible realization of reunification, the entire nation must give priority to national sovereignty and national interest. They emphasized the importance of firmly uniting, irrespective of differences in ideas, ideals and systems, and

activating diversified cooperation and exchange between the north and the south. The seminar was a historic meeting in which delegates and individuals from political parties and organizations in the north, south and abroad united in the struggle for reunification for the first time in history.

For Solidarity and Unity

An inter-Korean reunification rally of industrial workers and another involving agricultural workers were held at Mt. Kumgang in May and July respectively.

At the industrial workers’ rally held on May Day, the speakers said that the workers of the north and south should set an example to the nation by their joint efforts. They added that the workers must dynamically push ahead the reunification movement by enhancing the role of the forum of north and south Korean workers, the first organization for their solidarity. Colorful sports events and cultural functions took place at the rally.

A football game between mixed teams named Jaju and Tanhap demonstrated the unity of the workers.

It was followed by a joint performance, in which the workers sang songs of reunification and the nation.

Similar events took place at the agricultural workers’ rally. The delegates who took the floor called for conducting joint action and maintaining unity to implement the June 15 joint declaration.

They also staged folk games and other amusements divided into two mixed teams, called Jaju and Tangyol. The two teams competed in wrestling, tug-of-war and a relay race. The first of their kind since the national division, the rallies of industrial and agricultural workers were an occasion for the solidarity and unity of the entire nation.

Grand National Reunification Festival 2001

Marking the August 15 Liberation Day for the first time in the new century, the Grand National Reunification Festival 2001 was held in Pyongyang. Delegates from the north, south and over-seas took part in the festival. It was opened by a march of delegates through the streets leading to the Monument to Three Charters for National Reunification, where they held the opening ceremony of the festival.

During the festival, meetings, took place between delegates from different organizations of the north, south and abroad, as well as reunification forums, art performances and other events. The delegates of the various groups expressed their resolution to support the patriotic struggle to reunify the country without the intervention of outsiders, upholding the banner of the June 15 declaration.

Young people from the north, south and abroad, in their solidarity meeting, promised to be in the vanguard of the building of a country reunified, prosperous and strong.

Through the festival, the Korean people confirmed that national unity is the only means of survival. When the Koreans are united, reunification is sure to be realized.

Sung Ji Hye



On Mt. Paektu

I am now overwhelmed with emotion, standing here on the top of Mt. Paektu, which majestically rises with the clear blue Lake Chon in its crater.

All the mountain ranges in Korea successively stretch out from this point, and all the peaks that rise high in the Korean sky are overlooked from its peak. It is for this reason that our people have called it the ancestral mountain.

When they were deprived of their country by the aggressors, the bloodstirring, faithful patriots, coming and going over this mountain, waged the arduous anti-Japanese struggle, finally liberating the country. The sound of the patriotic forerunners' footsteps still seems to come from every peak of the mountain. Their patriotism and fighting spirit are maintained to this day by our people, vigorously stimulating us in the great work of reunifying the country.

There are many difficulties on the road to national reunification, but none of them will shake our will to reunifying the country.

As a member of the Korean nation, I will strive to implement the three charters for national reunification and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

Rim Min Sik, Secretary general of the Joint Secretariat of Pomminryon



The Grand National Reunification Festival 2001 Demonstrated the Mettle of the Korean Nation

The Grand National Reunification Festival 2001 recently held in Pyongyang was especially memorable for the solemn and tearful scenes of the August 15 Grand National Reunification March of the representatives from the north, south and overseas.

We representatives, shoulder to shoulder, marched the streets of Pyongyang, where slogans and posters appealing to Koreans to join the endeavour for reunification were displayed, singing the songs of reunification full of national pride and shouting the slogans at the top of our voices.

It was an emotional experience for us as we demonstrated our firm will to reunify the country, warmly welcomed by the citizens on every street.

Some groups of Pyongyang citizens sang "Oh, Reunification, Reunification", "The Dear South of the River" and other songs to encourage our marchers, and a young man presented bouquets to us, saying with passion, "Glad to meet you. Let's work harder to reunify the country."

Our faces were streaked with tears not sweat, despite the sultry weather.

All those of Korean blood, though different in residence, political opinion and religion, are longing for national reunification.

Yang Yang Dong, Chairman of the Federation of Korean Nationals in China

Pressing Issue Which Warrants Urgent Solution

Korea is known as the land of morning calm. However, owing to the occupation of the southern half of the Korean peninsula by 40,000 US troops, it has turned into a place of bloody confrontation and a dangerous flashpoint where the dark clouds of war hang in the air at all times.

In August this year the United States conducted the Ulji Focus Lens joint military exercises together with the south Korean military authorities, aimed at the northern half of Korea. During this war rehearsal, a mock exercise for a computer virus attack and hacking was conducted in addition to the staging of landing and river-crossing operations as in the past.

In preceding months, too, military exercises were conducted in succession—a joint mine warfare exercise in July, a joint exercise of commando units and a large-scale mobile exercise by the troops of the US 2nd division in May, and a joint wartime reinforcement exercise in April.

The United States wormed its way into south Korea and then unleashed a war, in an attempt to realize its ambition for the domination of the whole of Korea and Asia. Even after its defeat in the war, the United States continuously exacerbates the situation, refusing to leave south Korea. In the last 10 years alone it has taken military action threatening the northern half of Korea on more than 438,000 occasions. That works out at an average of 120 military actions every day which might give rise to war. Any of the large and small scale incidents, which happened in the area along the 240km-long Military Demarcation Line, could have led to all-out war. Serious incidents which led the situation on the Korean peninsula to the

brink of all-out war have occurred on several occasions—the Pueblo incident in 1968, the EC-121 large spy plane incident in 1969, the Panmunjom incident in 1976 and the 1993-1994 DPRK-US nuclear confrontation, for example.

The occupation of south Korea by US troops is the main obstacle to national reconciliation and promotion of the cause of reunification.

The meeting of the leaders of the north and south of Korea in the summer of last year and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration adopted at that time caused unprecedented enthusiasm to reunify Korea by their national concerted efforts.

Separated families and relatives living in the north and the south of Korea had impressive reunions, artists and sportsmen visited the north and south to give art performances or play friendly matches with each other, and the project for connecting severed railways and roads was pushed forward.

However, the newly-inaugurated Bush administration reinforced the US armed presence in south Korea, raving about the ‘threat from the north’ and the need to take a hard-line stance. It proceeded to aggravate the situation further, staging joint

military exercises with the south Korean army. The US is trying to draw south Korea into its missile defence system, aiming to deploy more Patriot missiles to be used for this system at US military bases in the south. This wasn’t the first time the US had worked to undermine inter-Korean rapprochement.

At the beginning of the 1970s, when the July 4 joint statement containing the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity was made public and a bright vista was opened up for the achievement of the reunification of Korea, the United States cast a dark shadow over developments. It said that it would not withdraw its troops from south Korea and that it would be true to its defence commitments with south Korea. In addition, it encouraged the anti-reunification forces in south Korea to create confrontation and division.

It responded to the north-south agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, mutual cooperation and interchange adopted at the beginning of the 1990s with the staging of a joint military exercise by its troops and the south Korean army.

So long as the tentacles of US aggression grip south Korea, the

(Continued on page 45)



American aggression force in south Korea in the middle of a northward Invasion exercise.

An Action Leading Japan to Destruction

Despite global protest and denunciation, Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Yasukuni Shrine on August 13, sparking a storm of worldwide indignation.

His visit is not merely in disregard of the world's demand, it is a wanton challenge to it and a rash action intended to turn back the clock.

From the outset the visit to the shrine should not have been a matter of debate among the Japanese rulers. It is quite contrary to the "peace" and "justice" stance fondly mouthed by the Japanese leaders. Those listed at the shrine had nothing to do with peace and justice: they opposed them. They died not in the war to defend Japan against foreign invasion but as a result of Japan's war of aggression and plunder against Korea and other Asian countries. Among them are Japan's most notorious war criminals such as Hideki Tojo. The Japanese leader's visit to the shrine was to pay his respects to Tojo and other top Japanese war criminals. This is the central issue.

Koizumi's act is an insult to those countries that suffered from Japanese imperialist aggression. His intention was to extol that crime-ridden history with the aim of repeating it.

That is why many countries

categorically opposed the visit to the shrine.

Yet despite all the opposition Japan's present leader visited the shrine and challenged the world. His visit took place two days before the slated date of August 15, but that does not change the character of his visit. The Japanese prime minister paid his respects to the war criminals at the shrine praising them as "patriots" and "heroes". He intended to create an atmosphere of respect for the war criminals in Japan and make the Japanese people a "shock force" willing to participate in their reinvasion plan. His visit clarified his place as standard-bearer in Japan's militarist revival. Koizumi's visit was followed by that of the director-general of his office, the chief of the defence agency, the minister of finance and other ministers of the Japanese government.

In the new century the

reactionary Japanese rulers have become bold enough to try to revive militarism, disregarding the aspiration and demand of the world for peace and worsening Japan's relations with other countries.

No one can foresee what consequences such a viewpoint and way of thinking will bring to the world.

Japan has shown clearly that it is the potential root cause of calamities in this century. A Japanese saying goes, "The one who does not think of the future cannot escape misfortune." Regrettably, Japan did not think of its future last century when it carried out overseas invasion only to suffer disgraceful defeat, leaving a deep stain on its history. Japan today is trying to repeat its appalling past mistake.

The reactionary rulers of Japan must deeply consider the tragedy their reckless acts will bring.



Japanese Air SDF in war rehearsals.

Incorrigible Bad Habits

Servile Attitude

At the end of March this year the United States publicly rejected the Kyoto Protocol, thus giving rise to worldwide protest and denunciation. Japan also raised its voice in protest against the United States at the time.

The United States was trying to shirk its responsibility, as it was to have borne the largest share of the reduction in green-house gas emissions proposed in the protocol. As soon as the anger of the European Union toward the US rejection became stronger, Japan offered to play the role of arbitrator between the US and the EU.

The Japanese authorities arranged meetings with EU officials to discuss possible cooperation, and dispatched its environment minister to the US in an attempt to persuade Washington to change its stance. Moreover, they assured the EU that Japan would talk the US into acceptance of the protocol without fail, with the Japan-US summit as momentum.

However, Japan had difficulty in raising the matter of protocol at the summit and failed to get a clear answer from the US.

It put forward a proposal for the amendment of the protocol after the meeting had been concluded.

In a press interview, Japanese chief cabinet secretary proposed revising the regulation of the protocol with regard to trimming the amount of emission of greenhouse gas on the basis of the level of the year 1990. He suggested to set the year 2000 as the basic year. In addition he proposed to reduce the US share of the cuts. He went so far as to say that his proposal was intended to calm the US.

This unexpected move by the Japanese government provoked widespread criticism from the international community.

During his talk with the person

in authority in Japan the French president asserted that the Kyoto Protocol must come to effect irrespective of whether the US participated in its implementation or not even when the Japanese side promised to press the US to the last to draw it into the Kyoto Protocol, voicing his request for French understanding of Japan's efforts.

The German environment minister reproachingly said that Japan's proposal could never calm the US. Spain's environment minister said emphatically, "Our attitude is unshakeable, even if the US rejects the Kyoto Protocol and Japan betrays us."

The president of the Association for Japanese Environment and Society in the 21st Century, who was an official of the Japanese environment ministry, said sarcastically that a funeral ceremony for the Kyoto Protocol is in the course of preparation, with the present Japanese leader and President Bush as chief mourners and the Japanese environment minister as a guide.

Piteous Plight

At the end of June this year an American soldier raped a Japanese woman in Okinawa, Japan.

The commander of the US armed forces stationed in

Okinawa expressed deep regret over the occurrence of such a case and

said that he had given instructions to establish rigid discipline. He promised that he would give all-round cooperation in the criminal investigation.

It was not the first time that the US commander had apologized for criminal acts committed by US soldiers stationed in Okinawa. However, their criminal offences are becoming more serious in nature and their frequency is on the increase.

His apology, therefore, was no more than empty diplomatic talk devoid of practical measures to end such incidents. Soon after this assault another criminal offence by US soldiers took place.

The Okinawa prefectural governor pointed out, "The United States says that it is making efforts to establish proper discipline among the American soldiers. But what is most important is whether the adoption of effective measures is possible." His words suggest that the US cannot establish discipline among its soldiers, nor can it prevent their criminal acts.

What lies at the root of such behaviour by the US troops?

The American soldiers in Japan have so far behaved arrogantly regarding Japan as their protectorate.



Japanese people demonstrating against the presence of an American Military base.

Stimulus of Silk-worm Growth

Scientists at the Botanical Institute of the Academy of Sciences have developed a new stimulus of silkworm growth which is effective in increasing the production of cocoons. The new stimulus was extracted from a plant widely-propagated in Korea. The stimulus will help increase cocoon production by shortening the silkworm's period of sleep.

Korean Women Boxers Dominate at World Championships

DPRK boxers clinched, five gold medals at the First Asian Women's Boxing Championships, held in Bangkok, Thailand from August 25 to 29.

A total of 85 women boxers from ten countries and regions took part in the championships. The Korean women dominated, emerging as the most successful team.

Pak Kyong Ok took gold in the 45kg category, Ri Jong Hyang in the 48kg category, Kim Kum Son in the 51kg category, Ha Son Bi in the 54kg category and Jo Pok Sun in the 60kg category.

The DPRK was awarded the team trophy and Ha Son Bi the Best Boxer award.

Hyon Un Mi bagged the bronze medal in the 57kg category.

Central Botanical Garden

Song Thae Jun
SITUATED at the foot of Mt. Taesong, the Central Botanical Garden covers an area of over 570 hectares and features 5,600 species of plants.

It was established on April 30, Juche 48(1959). At the time, it was named Pyongyang Botanical Garden.

The garden is responsible for increasing the natural resources of Korea by propagating and studying native species, and is also involved in the importation and acclimatization of plants which are of economic or aesthetic value but are unavailable in the country, with the goal of developing the economy and improving the people's quality of life.

The garden is also designed to give working people, youths and children knowledge of plants and to provide them with a good environment for their cultural and emotional development.

It preserves as national treasures over 3,000 sorts of plants, including the original species of Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, gifted to President Kim IL Sung and leader Kim Jong IL by heads of state, prominent political, social and academic figures of many countries

across the world and overseas Koreans. Thousands of species of domestic plants are also protected. The number of plant species is increasing day by day.

There are well-equipped hothouses for Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia at the garden, as well as a hothouse and a garden for plants donated from overseas, a house for floral samples in which hundreds of thousands of species are preserved, a systematic botanical garden, a medicinal herb garden, a flower garden, a garden of ornamental horticulture, a rose garden, an orchard of different species of fruit trees and a house for samples of these trees and a tree nursery.

There is also a research institute which conducts research into making comprehensive use of plant resources by introducing and acclimating new floral resources and other plants of economic value. The institute has an excellent stock of reference books and up-to-date equipment for the management and operation of the botanical garden.

A pilot plant, designed to put successful research into production, produces varieties of tea, medicines and perfumes.

The tree nursery produces young fruit trees and other trees necessary for landscaping projects across the country, as part of its aim to improve living standards.

Brisk activity is also under way to spread scientific knowledge of plants.

The garden also has branch gardens and experiment stations in every province and region.

It has made agreements with more than 100 botanical gardens across the world to exchange species and plants with them.

In recognition of the work it had done during its early years, the garden was awarded the Order of Kim IL Sung in April Juche 63(1974), marking its 15th anniversary. **SITUATED** at the foot of Mt. Taesong, the Central Botanical Garden covers an area of over 570 hectares and features 5,600 species of plants.

It was established on April 30, Juche 48(1959). At the time, it was named Pyongyang Botanical Garden.

The garden is responsible for increasing the natural resources of Korea by propagating and studying native species, and is also involved in the importation and acclimatization of plants which are of economic or aesthetic value but are unavailable in the country, with the goal of

developing the economy and improving the people's quality of life.

The garden is also designed to give working people, youths and children knowledge of plants and to provide them with a good environment for their cultural and emotional development.

It preserves as national treasures over 3,000 sorts of plants, including the original species of Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, gifted to President Kim IL Sung and leader Kim Jong IL by heads of state, prominent political, social and academic figures of many countries across the world and overseas Koreans. Thousands of species of domestic plants are also protected. The number of plant species is increasing day by day.

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Hibiscus mutabilis L. and Rubus Komarovii Nak, plants gifted to President Kim IL Sung and leader Kim Jong IL



Visitors look around the Kimjongilia Greenhouse



A field of flowers at the garden.



The birch wood.



Children and working people come to see the garden almost every day.



The Museum and the specimen hall at the garden



A Dragon-Patterned Brass Mirror, a Historic Relic



This brass mirror was made and used by Koreans in about the 12th century in the time of Koryo, a feudal state that existed from the early tenth to the late 14th century.

The mirror is 29.8 cm in diameter.

One side of the round thing is exquisitely polished as the mirror face and the back has a handle and a relief pattern.

The photo shows the back side. A full-blown lotus flower is set with the handle in the heart, and a couple of dragons are inscribed symmetrically in the open space. The images of the strongly-moving dragons are in delicate and lifelike relief.

As the biggest of its kind made during the Koryo time which are known so far, it provides a sidelight on the Korean

ancestors' artistic skill of metal work.

It is regarded as a precious national remnant for its excellent formative art and high historical significance.

Pak Chol Yong, Master of the History Science, Korean Central History Museum

